



PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
11539 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 500
Hawthorne, CA 90250
Contact: 310-970-7700

**South Bay Workforce Investment Board and Magnetika Commemorate
Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Graduates**

HAWTHORNE – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), Magnetika, Inc. and the Unilateral Apprenticeship Committee (UAC) members of the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship (AFPA) program awarded graduates on their completion of the AFPA program at the SBWIB in March.

“Magnetika is proud to announce its first graduates of the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship and looks forward to furthering their education in our highly anticipated Apprenticeship program,” stated Catherine Holdbrook-Smith, Human Resources Manager at Magnetika, Inc.; a designer and manufacturer of transformers, inductors and custom magnetic components who enlisted three pre-apprentices to complete their internship requirements.

Among the three graduates was Khanh, a thirty-three-year-old student at El Camino College who will be graduating this May. Khanh shared coming to the United States from Vietnam about three and a half years ago with an electrical engineering degree and the difficulty he had finding a job in the field. He heard about the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program during an announcement at El Camino College. “For me it was perfect. It was interesting to improve and get experience with Magnetika and it was a great opportunity to apply my knowledge in real work,” stated Khan. Upon completing his internship, Khanh will be hired and will work at Magnetika.

Andrew was another graduate who will be hired at Magnetika. He shared his experience after high school and the hardships with his major when he later decided to change to machine technology, but with limited work experience in the field. “I discovered this apprenticeship when taking a drafting course, I’m grateful for the opportunity,” he stated. “The greatest thing is all the knowledge you learn in school can now be applied at a job with a related background,” he added.

The AFPA program continues to partner with employers in the South Bay region of Los Angeles County and now throughout the nation to link interested applicants to engineering career pathways and gain the skills and knowledge needed to find employment in the workforce. The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Careers Centers within the South Bay area providing adult, youth and business services, plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne. Companies and individuals interested in being a part of the program, or for more information about the Aero-Flex Apprenticeship, please contact Deborah Shepard at dshepard@sbwib.org or call (310) 970-7700.

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Photo caption: SBWIB, Magnetika and UAC members award Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Engineering graduates at the SBWIB, March 7, 2018. Pictured from left to right, back row: Catherine Holdbrook-Smith, Magnetika HR Manager; Ameet Butala, Magnetika Vice President; Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director; Joe Ahn, Northrop, Chair of Sector. Front row from left to right: Andrew Noda, Khanh Tran and Bushra Khan, Aero-Flex Pre-Apprentice graduates.