



**PRESS RELEASE**

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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board to award students in the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program with \$500 stipend**

**HAWTHORNE** – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has piloted an “earn and learn” model for high school students connecting interns with career pathways in engineering and advanced manufacturing. Up to 25 participating students in the SBWIB’s Aero-Flex pre-apprenticeship program will gain work readiness and technical skills training along with their intensive internship. Once both programs are completed they will be awarded a \$500 stipend. In addition, students will receive many other benefits that will enhance their employment prospects.

The Aero-Flex pre-apprenticeship program is focused on building a pipeline of skilled engineers that meet the needs of industry and participating manufacturers. “This employer driven program will ensure our advanced manufacturing firms can find the talent they need right here in the South Bay region,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. “This new opportunity will help students prepare for a high wage career and their additional training will make them very attractive to an employer, increasing their chances of getting hired,” he added.

One unique aspect of the program is that the employer is able to define the training plan that the students are taught, which allows the student to learn specific skills that the employer needs. Training in work readiness skills are provided through online and in person courses and through work-based learning and on-the-job training. Additionally, students will receive an Industry-recognized stackable credential, and opportunity to advance to employment, complete college and/or enter into a Registered Apprenticeship. Membership into the Society of Manufacturing Engineers (SME) is also included, providing them access to SME mentor programs, SME Connect, scholarships, competitions and more. Students who complete the program can also earn qualified credentials to add to their college application and resume.

Program expansion will later include post-secondary students, veterans, returning service personnel and other under-served or under-employed populations.

Companies interested in being a part of the program or for more information about enrollment into the Aero-Flex pre-apprenticeship, please contact Deborah Shepard at [dshepard@sbwib.org](mailto:dshepard@sbwib.org) or call (310) 970-7700.

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Photo caption

El Segundo students in their after school program, Project Lead the Way (PLTW), a program supporting engineering, technology and science courses.

