



PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$12 Million Grant to West LA College/
South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Led Collaborative to Prepare
Apprentices for Advanced Manufacturing & Bioscience Careers**

HAWTHORNE – The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has awarded a \$12 million grant to a West Los Angeles College/SBWIB collaborative that will be part of a national effort under its Growing Advanced Manufacturing Apprentices Across America (GAMAAA) program to prepare and place 5,000 workers into pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship roles in advanced manufacturing with a focus on the Aerospace and Bioscience industries over the next four years. The grant was the only one awarded to a California applicant and will support training of new hires and incumbent workers.

While the local program will focus on placing nearly 1,500 apprentices and pre-apprentices around the Southland, the collaborative will be participating nationally in Employment & Training apprenticeship conferences to strengthen working relationships between local and national professional trade associations, educators, employers and elected officials that can help determine emerging skill sets and employer needs.

The SBWIB will be directly responsible for generating an awareness of the GAMAAA objectives locally as well as with workforce and employment development organizations in other parts of the nation such as South Carolina and Florida, where partnerships are being formed.

“This very significant grant award reflects the effectiveness of the apprenticeship programs we have collectively created here in the greater South Bay area,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. “Our Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex pre-apprentice and apprenticeship models are now being looked at and implemented nationally.”

Included among the local collaborative partners are El Camino College, College of the Canyons, Los Angeles Workforce Development Board, Los Angeles Economic Development Corporation, Project Lead the Way, Training Funding Partners, Goodwill of Southern California and the Aero-Flex Unilateral Apprenticeship Committee.

Companies and participants interested in this opportunity may contact Deborah Shepard at (310) 970-7700 for more information and details on how to participate.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within the South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne. All employment services provided are offered at no cost to the public, visit www.SBWIB.org to learn more about available programs.

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