

For Immediate Release
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South Bay Workforce Investment Board Hosts 10th Annual Alumni & Awards Breakfast

On October 27, 2005, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board hosted its 10th Annual Alumni & Awards Breakfast in recognition of outstanding job training program alumni, employers, and training providers. This year's theme was "*The Mark of Success.*" Jan Vogel, Executive Director of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) offered opening remarks and welcome. Hawthorne Mayor, Larry Guidi, also welcomed everyone and congratulated the South Bay WIB on another successful year. Dignitaries in attendance included the following: California State Assemblymember, Jerome Horton, Hawthorne Mayor Pro Tem, Pablo Catano, Hawthorne City Councilman, Louis Velez, Inglewood Council members, Ralph Franklin and Eloy Morales, Lawndale City Council members, Robert Pullen-Miles and Jim Ramsey, Hawthorne City Clerk, Daniel Juarez, Hawthorne City Treasurer, Thierrey Lubenec, and Blanca Jimenez representing Congresswoman, Maxine Waters.

While those in attendance enjoyed a delicious breakfast, the keynote speaker, Brian McMahon, Executive Director of the California Workforce Investment Board (CWIB), spoke about the success of the South Bay WIB and discussed the California WIB's goal of successful client placement in unsubsidized employment. Master of Ceremony, Wayne Spencer, Chairman of the SBWIB, introduced the award recipients. The main event focused on the recognition of those employers, organizations and individuals that made a difference through their outstanding contributions within the community, by educating, training, and employing thousands of people during the year. Alumni award recipient, Chris Edwards stated that "he is truly grateful to the SBWIB for the opportunity to attend the Sports Turf Management training program at Cal State University Dominguez Hills." Mr. Edwards is excited to be gainfully employed by True Green as a Landscape Assistant. Don Freeman, also an Alumni Award recipient, stated that "his life has many changes and learning experiences including confusion about where to go." However, Mr. Freeman has a new career with Prudential Realty and expressed gratitude to the SBWIB and everyone who was instrumental in helping him to achieve this endeavor.

The SBWIB Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Gardena One-Stop Business & Career Center Manager, Pat Martinez by Gardena Mayor, Paul Tanaka. Mr. Tanaka commented on Mr. Martinez' leadership, dedication and commitment to the SBWIB, One-Stop Business & Career Centers, and the City of Gardena. Gary Cruz was awarded the special 'Esther Williams' Award of excellence for outstanding commitment and contributions to the SBWIB and efforts to expose youth to the benefits of exercise, increased quality of life, and promote self-esteem. Mr. Cruz stated that he "enjoyed working with the kids to help them not only with physical education but acquire leadership skills, teamwork skills that will hopefully help them to become more productive citizens."

Among the training providers and businesses receiving awards were Cal State University Long Beach Foundation, Los Angeles Valley College, Monrovia Unified School District, Consolidated Smart Systems, Farmers Insurance & Financial Services, Gold's Gym, Krispy Kreme, Lawndale Elementary RAP Program, Mykotronx, Spherion, and Superior Super Warehouse. Congratulations to all the alumni award recipients, agency recognition award recipients, and businesses that have partnered with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board to help the community. Kudos to all the individuals, whose tenacity and hard work exemplify "*The Mark of Success.*"