

South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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MEDIA ADVISORY
February 11, 2008

COMMUNITY GROUPS SUPPORT TRUANCY ABATEMENT PROGRAM

Service clubs from Hawthorne and Lawndale have joined together to provide incentives for students participating in the Olympian Club after school program at Leuzinger High School in Lawndale. An initial donation of \$2,500 will be made to Leuzinger principal Sonja Miller, Wednesday, February 13, 2008, during a brief ceremony in the administration building, 4118 W. Rosecrans Avenue.

Representatives from the sponsoring organizations including the Hawthorne Kiwanis Club, Hawthorne Lions Club, Hawthorne Rotary Club, Lawndale Rotary Club and South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), will participate in the presentation along with school district officials. The majority of the funds will be used to purchase gift cards from local merchants and restaurants that will be awarded to students that demonstrate improved attendance. A scholarship will also be awarded at the end of year to the student with the most improved attendance.

The after school program was created to address the increasing truancy and drop out rates the high school has experienced in. It is the result of a collaborative effort involving the Centinela Valley Union High School District, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and the UCLA Community Learning Center. In recent years, Leuzinger High School has experienced up to 27 percent truancy rates amongst a student body that averages nearly 3,000 students annually.

The SBWIB provides a variety of services to students including academic enrichment, job training, character development and conflict resolution training. GED classes are also provided for parents.

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