



PRESS RELEASE

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

**37 Parolees Graduate from South Bay Workforce Investment Board's
Career Pathways 180 Job Preparation Academy**

HAWTHORNE – The fourth class of formerly incarcerated adults were recognized June 14th during ceremonies marking their graduation from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board's (SBWIB) week-long Career Pathways 180 Job Preparation Academy in cooperation with the Los Angeles Central Parole District and California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation. The event was presented at the Inglewood One-Stop Business & Career Center.

SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel served as Master of ceremonies for the graduation and introduced Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts, Jr. who welcomed the graduates back into the community and urged them to believe in themselves and take advantage of the opportunities that have been laid out for them. Also addressing the graduates were Congresswoman Maxine Waters and West Basin Municipal Water District Board Vice President and Chairperson of the Metropolitan Water District Gloria Gray.

Congresswoman Waters praised the graduates for accepting the opportunity given to them by the Pathways program and urged them to overcome any doubts they may have as they met with employers, and to never hesitate to seek advice from older friends and family members. Ms. Gray urged them to capitalize on the doors of opportunity that were opening for them and expressed her confidence in their abilities to succeed.

"We could not have enjoyed the success of this important program if it weren't for our partners and sponsors including the West Basin Municipal Water District which donated \$1,500," Mr. Vogel said. Other partners included the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, City of Inglewood, Friends Outside of Los Angeles, New Opportunities Charter School, and Gardena Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The academy consisted of four days of intensive pre-employment instruction utilizing the Blueprint for Workplace Success curriculum with an emphasis on overcoming their barriers in preparation for job interviews. The final day culminated with the graduation ceremony and a job fair.

Among the employers interviewing the graduates at the job fair were LA Apparel, Terranea Resort, First Transit, Career Expansions, MST, CONNEXX Cleaning Services, Hollywood Park Casino, Buffalo Wild Wings, Pactiv Food Packaging, Pride Industries, Rotex, Aerotek, BOHC Corporations, Los Angeles World Airports, Kely Services, Blue Crew and People Ready.



www.sbwib.org



Some of the graduates of the Pathways 180 Job Preparation Academy pose with dignitaries during graduation ceremonies June 14th at the South Bay Workforce Investment Board Inglewood One-Stop Center. Congresswoman Maxine Waters (center) presented the keynote address. To her right is West Basin Municipal Water District Board Vice President and Chairperson of the Metropolitan Water District Gloria Gray, along with SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel, next to the Congresswoman.

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