



PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**Fourteen Local Youth Gain Their High School Diplomas Through
South Bay Workforce Investment Board's Second Chance YouthBuild Program**

HAWTHORNE – The first class of students to graduate from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) YouthBuild Program were honored during their commencement ceremony June 21st at the Centinela Valley Center for the Arts on the campus of Lawndale High School. The YouthBuild Program enables those who did not finish high school, ages 16-24, to have a second chance to earn their diploma or G.E.D. and gain occupational skills training in construction as well as leadership development.

Family members and friends of the graduates attended the ceremony along with YouthBuild faculty members and representatives from partnering organizations including AmeriCorps, YouthBuild Charter School of California and California STEAM.

“We are extremely proud of these young adults who set aside their fears and overcame some very tough obstacles to complete this program,” said SBWIB Jan Vogel. “Many of them have already set their sights even higher and enrolled in local community colleges and trade schools this Fall.”

The SBWIB had been a partner with the program's founding organization, Century Center for Economic Opportunity (CCEO) based in Lennox, for more than 30 years before merging it into the Youth Services offerings of the SBWIB in the Fall of 2018. CCEO established one of the first YouthBuild Programs in the country, which was the result of a YouthBuild Grant made possible by the U.S. Department of Labor.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within its South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne providing no cost adult, youth and business services. For further information, please call (310) 970-7700 or visit sbwib.org.

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www.sbwib.org

YouthBuild Photo Caption



Some of the graduates of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board YouthBuild Program wait for commencement ceremony to begin June 21st at the Centinela Valley Center for the Arts at Lawndale High School.

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