



PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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South Bay Workforce Investment Board is awarded a \$240,000 Accelerator Grant for Pre-Apprenticeship development in Engineering

HAWTHORNE – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has been awarded \$240,000 by the California Workforce Development Board to continue developing its new Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship (AFPA), which creates a career pathway for engineering. The funding will be utilized to expand the pilot program; designed as an employer-driven earn and learn model that will build a workforce pipeline to help meet the needs of area aerospace employers.

The AFPA is a customizable program allowing each individual employer to design or “flex” the program’s curriculum to meet the needs of industry and of each participating manufacturer. Program participants will gain career knowledge in engineering, gain valuable work experience, connect with top employers ready to hire, gain industry association membership and more. Partnering employers will be able to flex the curriculum to their needs, build their workforce pipeline, receive funding to support training and recruitment and have access to a pool of talented job seekers ready to work. The program timeframe is 6-12 weeks and consists of work readiness training, industry specific occupational skills training and on-the-job work-based learning, provided by Aero-Flex member employers.

The AFPA provides an innovative and customizable framework that allows employers to easily invest in pre-apprentices with flexibility to respond to their priorities, labor market changes and innovations in the field. AFPA will be shared regionally throughout the Los Angeles Basin to bring together additional employers, workforce development partners, community colleges and others.

The SBWIB is expecting to enroll up to 100 Aero-flex Pre-Apprentices with this funding. Additionally, students will be provided \$500 stipends for their participation and successful completion of the program.

Current partners include El Camino College, West Los Angeles College, Tooling U-SME, Training Funding Partners and AMP So/Cal. Some of the employer partners include Northrop Grumman, L-3 Communications, Magnetika, Impresa Aerospace, Space Vector, Ten Tech, Space Vector, Verisurf and Zodiac Aerospace.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within the South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne, and provides adult, youth and business services. Companies interested in being a part of the program or for more information on the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship, please contact Deborah Shepard at dshepard@sbwib.org or call (310) 970-7700.

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AERO-FLEX
PRE-APPRENTICESHIP

AN EMPLOYER-CENTRIC EARN
AND LEARN MODEL FOR ENGINEERING

Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Brochure