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PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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Eleven Young Adults Graduate and Gain Their High School Diplomas Through South Bay Workforce Investment Board’s Second Chance YouthBuild Program

HAWTHORNE - Eleven young adults were honored for earning their high school diplomas during a graduation ceremony conducted by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) YouthBuild Program at the Hawthorne Memorial Center June 22nd. The YouthBuild Program enables youth ages 16-24 who didn’t finish high school to have a second chance and earn their high school diploma or G.E.D. and gain occupational skills training in construction as well as leadership development.

SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel provided the opening remarks at the graduation and praised the students for their perseverance in achieving their goals. He also thanked their family members and friends who were in attendance that supported them along the way and acknowledged the YouthBuild Charter School faculty members and SBWIB staff who make the program possible. Also attending was SBWIB Board Chairman Glenn Mitchell and SBWIB Youth Development Committee member Brian Markarian, Superintendent of the Hawthorne School District.

YouthBuild Alumni Alex Keaton urged the graduates to remember and put to good use the advice and lessons the school’s faculty and counselors gave them. “Seven years ago, I never imagined I could be where I am today as a fully employed and responsible person,” he further noted. Alex has since successfully graduated from college and is a business employee.

The graduates also received congratulatory certificates with a number of California State Assembly and State Senate members, as well as Congresswoman Maxine Waters.

The SBWIB had been a partner with the program’s founding organization for more than 30 years before merging it into the Youth Services offerings of the SBWIB in the Fall of 2018. The YouthBuild Program is made possible through a grant provided by the U.S. Department of Labor.

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