



PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board Honors Training Partners,
Businesses and Successful Job Seekers at 23rd Annual Awards Banquet**

HAWTHORNE – Nearly 500 community leaders, educators, employers, training partners and successful job seekers joined with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) staff and administrators for the 23rd Annual Awards Ceremony and Banquet, November 1st, at the Torrance Marriott.

SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel served as master of ceremonies for the event that was attended by numerous elected officials from the South Bay area including: Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts, Jr, along with Councilmembers Ralph Franklin and George Dotson; Hawthorne Mayor Alex Vargas and Councilmembers Olivia Valentine and Nilo Michelin; Lawndale Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles and Councilman Pat Kearney; Lomita Councilman Ben Traina; Carson Mayor Albert Robles and Councilman Elito Santarina; Gardena Mayor Tasha Cerda; Torrance Mayor Pat Furey and Councilman Tim Goodrich; West Basin Municipal Water District Board President Harold Williams and Vice President Scott Houston; Centinela Valley Unified School District President Hugo Rojas and Trustees Daniel Urrutia and Gloria Ramos; and, Hawthorne School District Board President Dr. Eugene Krank along with Trustees Cristina Chiappe, Luciano Aguilar, Alex Montiero and Sergio Mortara.

SBWIB Chairman of the Board Wayne Spencer joined with Mr. Vogel to honor 67 training partners who had achieved 90 – 100 percent placements of individuals into full time employment through the SBWIB. Special awards were also presented to following four South Bay area businesses: EV Connect in El Segundo, TEAM Industrial Services in Torrance, Hawthorne-based SpaceX, and Turner Construction which is part of the contractor team that is building the 70,000 seat football stadium in Inglewood that will house the Los Angeles Rams and Los Angeles Chargers.

The evening's top award – the Esther Williams Award of Excellence - was presented to Dennis Fitzgerald, Vice President of Operations for Gardena-based Impresa Aerospace, LLC. He was honored for his many years of superior performance in a wide breadth of industries including aerospace manufacturing, defense acquisition, developmental flight test, and as both a U.S. Naval pilot and commercial airline co-pilot. Mr. Fitzgerald was also one of the co-founders and active member of the SBWIB's Aero-Flex Unilateral Apprenticeship Committee. Impresa is hiring the first Aero-Flex Engineering Apprentice in the country.

The net proceeds of the event benefit the many youth programs the SBWIB provides. 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, telephone 310-970-7700 or visit sbwib.org.

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SBWIB Awards Ceremony Photo Caption



Four of the individuals honored for their successful completion of training through the South Bay Workforce Investment Board and gaining full employment proudly pose with their awards during the 23rd annual Awards Ceremony held November 1st at the Torrance Marriott. Pictured from left are Marta Caires of Hermosa Beach, Nanci Lane of Redondo Beach, Carolina Dorado of Torrance, and Patricia Goode of Manhattan Beach.

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