



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

February 28, 2022

**Irvine Foundation Awards \$250,000 Grant to
South Bay Workforce Investment Board
to Train Low-Income Women, Women of color and Underserved Populations for
In-Demand Occupations**

HAWTHORNE – The Irvine Foundation has awarded a \$250,000 grant to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) to help fund a new program to identify and train 50 low-income women, women of color and other individuals with barriers to employment that prevent them from gaining access to entry-level positions in advanced manufacturing sectors of the aerospace and bioscience industries.

The SBWIB will partner with community-based organizations to create new training models (including pre-apprenticeship, apprenticeship, and customized training) that reflect current advanced manufacturing industry occupational demand (e.g., in IT, cyber, big data, AI/VR, additive manufacturing), while also expanding existing aerospace and bioscience apprenticeship programs.

“We are honored to partner with the Irvine Foundation to build more living wage career pathways within the local advanced manufacturing ecosystem for underemployed and underrepresented populations within Los Angeles County and to provide a diverse workforce pipeline for our local employers,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel.

The program will strive to enable participants to increase their qualifications for advanced manufacturing careers, with the intent to pursue post-secondary education, obtain employment and/or obtain access to entrepreneurial opportunities in advanced manufacturing.

Established in 1937, the James Irvine Foundation is a philanthropic nonprofit organization established to benefit the people of California. The Foundation’s grantmaking focuses on a California where all low-income workers have the power to advance economically.

The SBWIB provides no-cost business services, job search and employment preparation support to job seekers at its four One-Stop Business and Career Centers serving 11 South Bay communities and operates two teen centers in Hawthorne and Inglewood. For more information call (310) 970-7700 or visit www.sbwib.org.

#