



**PRESS RELEASE**

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board congratulates first 20 Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Engineering graduates in partnership with Northrop Grumman Corporation**

**REDONDO BEACH** - The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and its Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship partners welcomed the first graduates from Northrop Grumman’s Spring 2017 HIP (High School Involvement Partnership) program on May 25th. Among the 23 youth enrolled in Northrop Grumman’s HIP program, 20 enlisted in SBWIB’s pilot “earn and learn” Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship in Engineering. Two of the first students to complete all components of the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program were each presented with a \$500 stipend check.

SBWIB’s Executive Director Jan Vogel stated “As we celebrate all the HIP students and their accomplishments, we would like to recognize the first two Aero-Flex students who completed all of their requirements within the initial timeline.” The two recipients of the \$500 stipend were Roderick Hughes and Miguel Sandoval, both seniors at the City Honors High School in Inglewood. The full Aero-Flex cohort is expected to receive their credentials of completion and stipend by mid-June.

In partnership with Northrop Grumman, the Spring 2017 HIP students, who enrolled in over 12 weeks of hands-on job training and work experience with individual HIP internship mentors also received both in-class and online work-readiness training through SBWIB’s Blueprint for Workplace Success class along with Tooling U-SME’s technical curriculum customized to meet Northrop Grumman’s focus on Health and Safety.

HIP was established in 1971 and has partnered with community schools, serving over 7,000 students since inception. By offering to pilot the newly industry - recognized Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship, Northrop Grumman supports the need to build multiple skills and increase interest in Engineering/Advanced Manufacturing within today’s youth. Currently, eight South Bay/LA companies have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to participate actively in similar internships that will be customized to their workforce development needs. As the program expands, it will include high school and post-secondary students, incumbent workers as well as veterans and other under-served or under-employed populations.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Careers Centers within the South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne providing 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](mailto:dshepard@sbwib.org) or call (310) 970-7700.

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www.sbwib.org

Photo Caption

Graduating interns of Northrop Grumman's Spring 2017 HIP (High School Involvement Partnership) program and SBWIB's Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program posed at their graduation ceremony at Northrop Grumman Corporation on May 25<sup>th</sup>.

