



**PRESS RELEASE**

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

**Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Recognize Thirty-Nine South Bay Workforce Investment Board Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Graduates**

**HAWTHORNE** – The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognized the first graduates of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship (BFPA) program at a special breakfast reception and formal board presentation on Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at the Hall of Administration.

This event celebrated the success of the 39 Bio-Flex graduates who completed the program. Initial pre-apprentice cohorts were hosted by Bachem Americas, Inc., Oak Crest Institute of Science, Pasadena Bio Collaborative Incubator, Protomer Technologies and Takeda Pharmaceutical Company.

Present to show support were stakeholders, program partners, and parents/guardians. BFPA partners include: West Los Angeles College, El Camino College, California State University Dominguez Hills, Biocom, Workforce Development Aging & Community Services (WDACS), Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). Interested students and supervisors from Compton Dominguez High School, and North Torrance High School were also invited to celebrate the new, innovative Bio-Flex Youth Pre-Apprenticeship program.

“What’s important about this program is that it shows investing in the bioscience sector is not just about building new infrastructure, it’s about investing in our human capital, creating career pathway programs that connect workers of all levels to employment opportunities in bioscience,” stated Mark Ridley-Thomas, LA County Supervisor, Second District. “The Bio-Flex program does just that, by recruiting, cultivating and retaining the next generation of bioscience workers right here in Los Angeles County,” he added.

Thanks to an initiative provided by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, along with the support of his colleagues on the Board of Supervisors, the County awarded an initial \$200,000 grant to launch and develop the program. Additionally, WDACS provided another \$150,000 for training costs. Supervisors Mark Ridley-Thomas and Janice Hahn and the board of supervisors have done a tremendous job in elevating bioscience in the region. Los Angeles is going to be the hub of bioscience, not only in the state, but the country,” said Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director.

Since its inception this year, Bio-Flex has 70+ individuals graduated or enrolled. The program offers a strategy to complement LA County’s action plan to support and expand the LA Bioscience community of employers; and to provide excellent training and job opportunities for its residents through a new breed of Pre-Apprenticeship and Apprenticeship training programs. For more information, please visit [www.sbwib.org/bioflex](http://www.sbwib.org/bioflex) or call (310) 970-7700.

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SOUTH BAY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
**SBWIB**



**Photo caption:** Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors recognized the first graduates of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board’s Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program during a special breakfast reception and formal board presentation on Tuesday, October 29<sup>th</sup> at the Hall of Administration. Pictured above are LA County Board of Supervisors, employer and SBWIB representatives, and Bio-Flex graduates.