South Bay Workforce Investment Board Facilitates NASA/JPL Interface with Hawthorne High School Manufacturing & Engineering Students

HAWTHORNE – As a result of the national exposure that the South Bay Workforce Investment Board’s (SBWIB) highly successful Aero-Flex pre-apprentice and apprenticeship programs for high school and college students have attained, visiting NASA representatives from Washington D.C. hosted students from Hawthorne High, along with current and former Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship college students, for a tour of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena March 15th. The SBWIB coordinated the visit and provided transportation for the students. The following day NASA visited the Hawthorne High School Academy School of Manufacturing & Engineering (SME) for a tour.

The visitors to Hawthorne High included NASA participants Elaine Ho, Deputy Associate Administrator of STEM Engagement, and Reagan Hunter, Projects & Initiatives Manager, Office of the Administrator. During the visit they met with students and teachers and toured the SME lab and workshop. The students showed various projects including a robot being built for an upcoming competition.

“Hawthorne High School engineering students have been participating in the Aero-Flex apprenticeship program since 2017,” noted SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. “Many of them have gone on to college and later hired as apprentices with our aerospace partner employers,” he noted.

During their visit to JPL, the Hawthorne students were guided through areas often not included in public tours, including the Spacecraft Assembly Facility, Space Flight Operations Facility, museum, and the Mars Yard, where they saw and learned about the original Mars Rover and helicopter prototypes. They interfaced with scientists and technicians and begin to realize how the concepts of engineering they were learning in school are applied in the real world of work and space.

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Photo caption: South Bay Workforce Investment Board Facilitates NASA/JPL Interface with Hawthorne High School Manufacturing & Engineering Students