



**PRESS RELEASE**

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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**The City of Hawthorne Recognize South Bay  
Workforce Investment Board Aero-Flex Graduates**

**HAWTHORNE** – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board’s (SBWIB) Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship students, accompanied by their parents/guardians, were recognized during the City of Hawthorne’s council meeting on Tuesday, September 24, 2019. The group of twenty-three students graduated from the SBWIB’s Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program earlier this summer.

In attendance to congratulate them were; City of Hawthorne Mayor Alex Vargas, Mayor Pro-Tem Olivia Valentine, Councilmember Alex Monteiro, SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel, Centinela Valley Union High School District Superintendent Gregory O’Brien, city manager and city attorney. Mayor Vargas expressed, “We are the cradle of aerospace here in the city of Hawthorne, it’s great to see science and engineering programs here in our community starting with our own namesake high school, Hawthorne High School,” and congratulated the students for their continued success.

The Aero-Flex Program has led to 288 graduates since inception. “We were certified as the first ever in the country aerospace engineering apprenticeship and because of that success we have started a Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program,” stated SBWIB’s Executive Director, Jan Vogel. “In the next four years we are going to have 5,000 apprentices and pre-apprentices in aerospace and bioscience,” he added.

In addition to being recognized by the City of Hawthorne, two students, Juan Placeres and Ragib Sakib, will be honored at the SBWIB’s 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Awards Ceremony on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup>. “After the Aero-Flex program, engineering seems like a realistic idea to me, like actual attainable goals. I think everyone should be a part of the pre-apprenticeship program,” expressed Ragib.

The Aero-Flex program is an employer directed earn and learn model for engineering, allowing each individual employer to design and “flex” the program’s curriculum. Program participants gain career knowledge in manufacturing, obtain valuable training and work experience, gain industry association membership and more.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within the South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne, and provides adult, youth and business services. Companies and students 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 or call (310) 970-7700.

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www.sbwib.org

SOUTH BAY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT BOARD  
**SBWIB**



**Photo caption:** The City of Hawthorne recognizes South Bay Workforce Investment Board's Aero-Flex Pre-Apprentices on Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the city council meeting. Photo credit: City of Hawthorne.