



NEWS

South Bay Workforce Investment Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board Convenes Southern California Regional Pilot Program In Support of White House Space Industry Coalition Initiative

HAWTHORNE – The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) hosted a convening for a White House Space Industry Coalition meeting at the SBWIB corporate office in Hawthorne. Employers attending on March 16, 2023 are participating in the Southern California Regional Pilot, which is part of an initiative introduced by Vice President Kamala Harris, who is Chair of the National Space Council. The initiative seeks to address the rising demand for the space industry’s skilled technical workforce.

The Southern California Regional Pilot Program, in collaboration with NASA and Northrop Grumman, is one of three programs established nationally with the purpose of collaborating with service providers including community colleges, workforce boards and others to demonstrate a replicable and scalable approach to attracting, training and creating employment opportunities, with an emphasis on attracting people from backgrounds underrepresented in STEM jobs.

In his opening remarks, SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel, gave a special thanks to long-time employer partner Northrop Grumman, a leading global aerospace and defense technology company, who had connected the SBWIB with NASA and the Aerospace Industries Association (AIA) to help move this initiative forward.

The attendees were then greeted by Pam Melroy, Deputy Administrator of NASA, through a pre-recorded video message in which she stated in part, “...yes we need our scientists and our engineers and researchers - but we also need our welders, machinists and electricians...it’s no small effort to have pulled together this coalition of companies, community colleges, and state and local governments and workforce boards...I know you will do what it takes to get the job done right.” She commended the SBWIB for hosting and Northrop Grumman for working as the anchor company for the Southern California regional pilot.

During the meeting employers from eight companies received information from education and workforce development partners about available resources to: build their technical workforce pipeline; meet their current and future workforce needs for skilled technical roles; and reach their diversity, equity and inclusion goals. The employers discussed their skilled technical needs and expressed their commitment to the regional pilot program.

The SBWIB, NASA and AIA will facilitate individual meetings with each employer to discuss specific needs to increase their skilled technical workforce.

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