Southern California Apprenticeship Network (SCAN) Launches Major Apprenticeship Initiative in coordination with National Apprenticeship Week

The employer-driven network aims to create 3,000 non-traditional apprenticeship opportunities in Southern California by 2029

HAWTHORNE, CA - More than 150 representatives from employers, workforce development boards, state and federal agencies, educational institutions, trade unions and other apprenticeship intermediaries joined together in person and virtually for the launch of the Southern California Apprenticeship Network (SCAN) on November 15th, held at Los Angeles Trade Technical College.

The new SCAN Program Director, Alex Hussain, was announced and served as master of ceremonies providing a brief overview of the evolution of apprenticeship development throughout the state, then introduced keynote speakers that included: Jim Limbaugh, President of West Los Angeles College; Doug Howell, California State Director Region 6 U.S. Department of Labor, and Adele Burnes, Deputy Chief of the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards.

During her presentation, Ms. Burnes announced the start of a new initiative called the California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship Program that will initially provide $25 million in grants starting in 2024 to existing and new workforce development organizations as well as community-based groups that have registered pre-apprentice and apprenticeship programs that offer training to support underserved youth.

SCAN was established by a coalition of employers, educational institutions, workforce development leaders and many other stakeholders with the unified goal of expanding apprenticeship throughout Southern California. Through a generous grant provided by the Irvine Foundation to the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), the network was given the resources and infrastructure needed to move forward. "The Southern California Apprenticeship Network (SCAN) is helping to address the increasing skilled workforce demands of employers, while creating quality job opportunities for underrepresented communities in the region," said Jan Vogel Executive Director, SBWIB.

Collectively, SCAN is committed to creating 3,000 non-traditional apprenticeships in Southern California by 2029. "SCAN is led by employers of all sizes, and we have seen how apprenticeship

programs can address the skills gap facing most companies, while also providing alternative career pathways for motivated, underrepresented individuals into roles that normally require a specific degree or professional experience," said Jorge Marquez, SVP at Robert Half and Board Member of the California Interagency Advisory Committee on Apprenticeship (IACA).

SCAN Founding Members include Accenture, Aon, CVS Health®, Los Angeles Regional Consortium, Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board and Training Funding Partners. Leading Employers of the network include Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, and Entertainment Partners.

"We have seen that apprenticeships not only uplift individual lives, but also drive economic opportunities in local communities, especially in underrepresented communities," said Alex Hussain, Program Director at SCAN. "Apprenticeships are truly a win-win for all involved: they help employers develop a skilled workforce to meet their talent needs, while providing local talent new pathways to on-the-job experiences and promising career opportunities."

For more information on SCAN, please visit our website: sbwib.org/scan

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Adele Burnes, Deputy Chief of the California Division of Apprenticeship Standards, speaks on apprenticeship growth and funding updates during SCAN 's kickoff event on National Apprenticeship Week on November 15, 2023.

SCAN program director, Alex Hussain, opens kickoff event on November 15, 2023.