



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

May 31, 2018

**South Bay Promise to Expand to Graduating High School Seniors  
In All Public, Private and Charter Schools within El Camino College District**

**HAWTHORNE** – When the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) launched the pilot program South Bay Promise four years ago in partnership with El Camino College (ECC) and California State University Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), its long term goal was to expand the program from the original two districts, Centinela Valley Union High School District and Inglewood Unified School District, to all the school districts that comprise the El Camino College District service area.

This Fall that goal will be achieved when more than 500 eligible graduating seniors from Centinela Valley, Inglewood, El Segundo, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach, Torrance, and the Wiseburn Unified School Districts enroll full time at El Camino College with their enrollment fees waived during the first year. Also included are graduating seniors attending charter and private schools or being home schooled.

The South Bay Promise enables students to have access to higher education and services such as tutoring, counseling and other support programs that they need to be successful and transfer or graduate and enter the workforce. Participating students sign a pledge stating their commitment to the program that stresses college preparation, access and success. Upon completion of 60 semester credits at ECC, the students are guaranteed transfer acceptance to CSUDH.

During a signing ceremony hosted by El Camino College on May 11<sup>th</sup>, where all the South Bay Promise partners signed resolutions of support, committing to the program, SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel reflected on the success of the program over a few short years. “We started out very small with just 12 students making the commitment to enroll full time at El Camino. Last fall that number skyrocketed to over 400,” he noted. “Thanks to the efforts of the El Camino Foundation and some very generous grants from businesses and organizations throughout the South Bay, a solid foundation has been established for guaranteed funding for many years to come,” he concluded.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within its South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne providing no cost adult, youth and business services; including internships and access to local businesses for South Bay Promise students. South Bay Promise students also get to take field trips to local companies to experience first-hand the workforce in action. For further information, please call (310) 970-7700 or visit [sbwib.org](http://sbwib.org).