



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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

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**Second Group of High School Students Graduate From  
South Bay Workforce Investment Board Bio-Flex  
Pre-Apprenticeship Program**

**HAWTHORNE** – Despite the distance learning mandates brought on by the COVID 19 school closures, 19 high school students from Compton’s Manuel Dominguez High School graduated from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship (BFPA) program. Originally scheduled to run from January through March, the program went virtual and extended through May.

The program is a flexible, yet structured career pathway for the next generation of Bioscience workers in LA County. So far, more than 75 students have graduated from the Bio-Flex program after interning with companies such as Takeda, Oak Crest Institute of Science, Protomer Technologies, Bachem Americas, and Pasadena Bio Collaborative Incubator.

Dominguez High School was recommended by the staff of Los Angeles County Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, in conjunction with the high school's Career Technical Education Supervisor, the Principal, and their Bio-Medical pathway teacher, Dr. Olushina Oshinuga.

After SBWIB Bio-Flex coordinators made an in-person presentation about the Pre-Apprenticeship program, interested students signed up for Bio-Flex as a way to further enhance their on-going school curriculum. They were exposed to employer-approved online training courses providing skills needed to succeed in the life science field. The Bio-Flex program concluded with a virtual career day featuring a remote tour of the BioLabs at The Lundquist Institute along with a discussion on career pathways and virtual tour of the PolyPeptide Group facilities in Torrance.

“We developed this employer driven apprenticeship model to meet the workforce development needs common to industry partners, while providing a framework to allow each employer to design or flex their own program,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel. “Employers are able to tailor the curriculum to meet their individual training needs around a specific occupation or department,” he concluded.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within the South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne. All employment services provided are offered at no cost to the public, visit [www.SBWIB.org](http://www.SBWIB.org) to learn more about available programs.

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Photo caption: Nineteen students from Compton's Manuel Dominguez High School virtually graduate from South Bay Workforce Investment Board's Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program.

