

Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox Rotary Club is Happy to be a Rotary Youth Exchange Sponsor for the 2025-2026 Rotary Year



The Rotary welcomed their incoming exchange student Prisca from Germany at their club meeting. Prisca was supported by their outgoing exchange student An and their 2019-2020 outgoing exchange student Leandro (photo on the right). We wish you a very warm welcome. Photos courtesy Hawthorne/LAX/Lennox Rotary Club Facebook page.

SBWIB Highlights Happening in South Bay

Construction Job & Resource Fair Creates Pathways for Justice-Involved Adults in Watts

In partnership with Congresswoman Maxine Waters, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) hosted a Construction Jobs & Resource Fair held at the center within the Imperial Courts Housing Development, that provided justice-involved adults with direct access to union careers, apprenticeship programs, and employers ready to hire.

The event drew a turnout of men and women determined to rebuild their lives, many of the attendees had been previously incarcerated, seeking stable employment and a new start in the construction trades. Congresswoman Waters delivered opening remarks, praising participants for taking steps toward meaningful careers. She thanked the unions and employers for offering second-chance opportunities and personally engaged with job seekers—asking who had brought resumes and even conducting mock interviews to help prepare them for success.

Major employers including HireLAX, LA Metro, Power 2 Workers, and Swinerton Builders participated, with Swinerton hiring several individuals on the spot. Trade partners included Laborers Local 300, Carpenters, Electricians, Flatiron (105 Freeway), Southern California Cement Masons, Plumbers Local 78, and the Painters Union. By the conclusion of the event, eight participants had been approved to join unions.

A key highlight was the participation of justice-involved adults trained by Career Expansion, Inc., a partner organization providing pre-apprenticeship and career readiness instruction. The timing was ideal, as the

students were completing training just the week prior to the event.

Adding to the inspiration, Preston Prince, a Compton resident and former SBWIB/Career Expansion participant, returned to the fair representing his employer, Swinerton Builders. Once living at the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's GEO Male Community Reentry Program in Long Beach, Preston completed training, was hired as a carpenter, and has since advanced to Project Engineer. His story of growth and resilience resonated with attendees, demonstrating the power of opportunity and persistence.

SBWIB Awarded \$1 Million via California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship (COYA) Grant to Expand Pre-Apprenticeship Pathways for Disadvantaged Youth

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has been awarded a \$1 million California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship (COYA) implementation grant from the California Department of Industrial Relations (DIR) and its Division of Apprenticeship Standards (DAS). This funding will support 125 disadvantaged youth ages 16–24 through paid pre-apprenticeship training, wraparound services, and direct entry into Registered Apprenticeship Programs across multiple high-demand sectors.

The grant is part of a statewide \$15.4 million investment awarded to 29 programs through COYA, designed to align opportunity youth—often disconnected from school or employment—with career pathways in high-demand industries. This is the second round of COYA funding, following an initial \$31 million that supported 51 projects across California.

Local Youth will prepare for careers in healthcare, aerospace, advanced manufacturing, bioscience, automotive, aviation, education, and digital media through the SBWIB's pre-apprenticeship programs called, Aero Flex, Space Flex, Bio-Flex, AME Flex and others, with training for occupations like Aerospace Assembly Technician, Production Technician, and Digital Media Editor. Each participant will receive industry-aligned training, an educational stipend, and supportive services. Funding will be invested in sector-based technical skills training.

The project leverages 15 core partners including the Hospital Association of Southern California (HASC), OSI Systems, and

Oak Crest Institute of Science, with major employers and institutions such as Northrop Grumman, El Camino College, and West Los Angeles College also engaged.

The COYA initiative prioritizes youth from historically underserved groups—foster youth, youth of color, justice-involved youth, young parents, low-income individuals, and youth with disabilities—who meet criteria such as Pell eligibility, WIOA status, Title I school enrollment, or residence in high-poverty areas.

California's broader apprenticeship expansion is part of Governor Newsom's Master Plan for Career Education, which sets a goal of serving 500,000 apprentices by 2029.

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