



PRESS RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board
Partners with El Camino College and West Los Angeles College to Prepare
Job Seekers for Careers in Information Technology**

HAWTHORNE – A new nontraditional apprenticeship earn and learn program called, IT-Flex is being formed through a partnership with El Camino College, the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and West LA College. The new program will generate a talent pipeline that supports the Information Technology (IT) sector. Thanks to the awarding of a California Apprenticeship Initiative Grant of \$500,000 to El Camino College, the initial focus of IT-Flex will be to prepare candidates for apprenticeship positions in programming, coding, software development and information security analytics.

The IT-Flex partnership will reach out to socio-economic populations disproportionately left out of the IT field and to employers wanting to diversify their workforce under a structured plan that helps meet their talent needs.

Based on the successful apprenticeship programs the SBWIB has pioneered for the aerospace and bioscience industries, Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex, IT-Flex will create an additional training model that is flexible and able to meet the needs of employers and provide opportunities for job seekers throughout the region.

SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel noted, “The fast-evolving IT career field requires a long-term pipeline of qualified applicants to fill vacant high wage positions. Our outstanding partners in education and the IT business sector have helped us create this model, which will support many IT occupations.”

In addition to providing a resume portal for those interested in an apprenticeship opportunity, the SBWIB will handle employer engagement and manage a recruitment effort over the course of the project with a goal of enrolling 80 participants into an IT-Flex apprenticeship, utilizing classroom-based training, employer led on-the-job training, online learning and academic and career coaching.

The SBWIB operates four One-Stop Business and Career Centers that serve 11 South Bay communities as well as two Teen Centers in Hawthorne and Inglewood. For further information call (310) 970-7700 or visit www.sbwib.org.

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