



**PRESS RELEASE**

July 31, 2019

South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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**Twenty-three Hawthorne High School Manufacturing & Engineering Students Graduate from South Bay Workforce Investment Board’s Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program**

**HAWTHORNE, CA** – Twenty-three students from Hawthorne High School Manufacturing & Engineering graduated from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board’s (SBWIB) Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program on Friday, July 26, 2019. Students and parents/guardians were celebrated during graduation held at the SBWIB offices in Hawthorne.

Present to congratulate the pre-apprentices were; Dr. Gregory O’Brien, Centinela Valley Union High School District (CVUHSD) Superintendent; Mrs. Mejia, Associate Principal, Hawthorne H.S.; Dr. Pamela Brown, Principal, Hawthorne H.S.; Mr. Lucas Pacheco, Hawthorne H.S. Manufacturing & Engineering Coordinator; Hatha Parrish, Director of Federal and State Programs, CVUHSD and Kacie Yoshida, Career Technical Education Pathway Specialist, Hawthorne H.S. Dr. O’Brien commended the students for finishing the program during their summer. “Take pride in what you are doing and be grateful for the SBWIB and all those individuals that took their time to recruit you for this experience,” Dr. O’Brien expressed. “Always be grateful to those individuals because they have helped to provide you with opportunities for your future careers and lives,” he added.

As part of the three track Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program requirements, students successfully completed and earned certificates for Track I - work readiness training called, “Blueprint for Workplace Success”, Track II - SME ToolingU occupational skills training and Track III - work experience training. “We are proud of the dedication of these students; 23 enrolled and all of them completed the requirements,” stated SBWIB Executive Director, Jan Vogel. Students also received a \$500 stipend at graduation for their successful work.

The Aero-Flex program is an employer directed earn and learn model for engineering, allowing each individual employer to design and “flex” the program’s curriculum. Program participants gain career knowledge in manufacturing, obtain valuable training and work experience, gain industry association membership and more.

The SBWIB operates four One Stop Business & Career Centers within the South Bay service area plus two Teen Centers in Inglewood and Hawthorne, and provides adult, youth and business services. Companies and students interested in being a part of the program or for more information on the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship, please contact Deborah Shepard at [dshepard@sbwib.org](mailto:dshepard@sbwib.org) or call (310) 970-7700.

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**Photo caption:** Hawthorne High School Manufacturing & Engineering students graduate from South Bay Workforce Investment Board Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program on July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at the SBWIB.

