



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Wiseburn Da Vinci High School Students Become First Graduates of SBWIB's Sky-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program

HAWTHORNE – Twelve students from Da Vinci High School in the Wiseburn Unified School District have made history as the first graduates of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board's (SBWIB) Sky-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program—a new initiative that prepares youth for high-demand careers in aviation, aircraft maintenance, and assembly.

The Sky-Flex program is structured around a three-track model:

- Work Readiness Skills – communication, teamwork, and problem-solving.
- Industry Technical Skills – exposure to aircraft systems and assembly practices.
- Work-Based Learning – hands-on experiences guided by industry professionals.

Throughout the program, students gained practical skills, meaningful experiences, and valuable career exposure to opportunities in the aviation sector.

“These students can use this experience to pursue good-paying careers in the aviation and aircraft industries,” said SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel, praising the graduates for their commitment and initiative.

As part of their training, the students:

- Performed hands-on assembly work alongside professional aircraft mechanics during a field trip to the Sling Aircraft Factory at Torrance Airport.
- Learned directly from an air traffic controller, who visited the class to share insights into the rigorous training and critical responsibilities of maintaining safe skies.
- Met with a professional drone pilot, who not only explained career opportunities but also guided students as they each flew a drone, experiencing the skills needed to pursue careers in drone operations.

The highlight of the program was individual flight lessons with instructors from the Sling Pilot Academy. Each student took to the skies, gaining firsthand experience as a pilot for insight into what a career as a commercial pilot would be like working for the major airlines.

This pre apprenticeship program was made possible through a grant from the Howmet Foundation, whose support ensured students had an unforgettable, career-inspiring experience.

The Sky-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program represents SBWIB's commitment to preparing the next generation of workers for California's growing aviation industry. By combining classroom instruction, technical training, and immersive industry exposure, the program provides students with a strong foundation to pursue careers in aircraft maintenance, aviation technology, and related fields.

For more on SBWIB's free job preparation, pre-apprenticeship, and apprenticeship programs for young adults, visit www.sbwib.org.

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Photo caption: Wiseburn Da Vinci High School students become the first graduates of South Bay Workforce Investment Board's Sky-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program



