



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board Celebrates Upskilling of 531 Workers and Secures Additional \$726,810 for Employee Training Program

Hawthorne, CA—The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) is pleased to announce the successful completion of an employee training program that has upskilled 531 workers across the Southland, boosting productivity and advancing career opportunities. These workers, employed in industries such as manufacturing, healthcare, information technology, and aerospace, are now earning an average wage of \$43.50 per hour. The training initiatives were funded by the State of California Employment Training Panel (ETP) and administered by SBWIB.

In recognition of the program's positive outcomes, ETP has awarded SBWIB an additional \$726,810 to extend the project for another two years. This new funding will allow SBWIB to continue partnering with employers to deliver targeted training that fosters innovation, increases operational efficiency, and empowers workers with new skills and advancement opportunities.

"We're thrilled, not only with the impact this program has had, but also with the new funding from ETP that will allow us to keep driving workforce development across key industries," said Jan Vogel, Executive Director of SBWIB. "This extension gives us the opportunity to upskill even more workers, helping businesses grow, while ensuring employees have the skills they need to thrive in today's economy."

Centinela Hospital Praises SBWIB's Employment Training Panel Grant Program

Centinela Hospital Medical Center in Inglewood, CA, a key participant in SBWIB's Employment Training Panel (ETP) grant program, expressed deep appreciation for the support provided through the program. "The funding from SBWIB's ETP grant has been instrumental in helping us train both our new hires and incumbent workers," said Mohammad Naser, CEO for the hospital. "This has allowed us to enhance the skills of our healthcare staff and ensure they are equipped to meet the demands of a constantly evolving healthcare environment. We are grateful for this partnership and look forward to continued collaboration with SBWIB to further strengthen our workforce."

The Airplane Factory Thrives with ETP Support

The Airplane Factory, based in Torrance, CA, has also seen benefits from SBWIB's ETP grant program. "When we first joined the ETP program, we had only 30 employees. Today, we've grown to over 100," said Matt Liknaitzky, co-owner of The Airplane Factory. "This program has played an important part in our growth. With SBWIB's support, we've been able to provide essential training to our Airframe and Powerplant mechanics and aircraft assembly workers, ensuring they maintain their skills and stay up-to-date on the latest techniques. This has made our workforce more efficient and productive, which has been critical as we continue to expand. The ETP grant has been a vital tool in our growth and success."

Training Fuels Growth and Career Advancement

Through the initial phase of the program, employees received training in critical areas like healthcare, machine operations, IT systems, cybersecurity, and advanced manufacturing techniques. As a result, participating companies have reported increased productivity and profitability. One partner, LeFiell Manufacturing company – an employee owned company, saw a 38% increase in employee training in 2023, directly contributing to improved performance.

Many participants have also advanced their careers as a result of the program. Numerous workers earned certifications and promotions, including an hourly machine operator at LeFiell who was promoted to a Lead position after completing process and equipment training. Another success story involves an inspector who advanced to a Manufacturing Engineer role at LeFiell after receiving specialized training in inspection processes.

Impact Across Multiple Industries

ETP funding allowed SBWIB to partner with companies in various industries, tailoring training programs to address industry-specific needs. For example, LeFiell utilized ETP support to train employees on enterprise resource planning (ERP) systems, machine operations, and inspection protocols. This training led to significant improvements in operational efficiency.

Small businesses also benefitted from the program. An automotive company used the funds to expand its Research and Development department and train its team in advanced automotive technology and engineering design, helping them stay competitive in a fast-changing market.

A key contributor to this project has been 'Training Funding Partners', whose expertise and collaboration with the SBWIB were instrumental in making the program successful, allowing SBWIB to enhance the impact of its training initiatives and extend its reach to more businesses and workers across multiple industries.

Looking Ahead: Expanding the Reach of Workforce Development

With the additional \$726,810 in funding from ETP, SBWIB will continue to provide valuable training opportunities over the next two years. These efforts will focus on expanding upskilling initiatives in sectors where training has already proven highly effective, ensuring that businesses and employees across California remain competitive and adaptable in the evolving economy.

"Our collaboration with ETP has been incredibly fruitful, and we are excited about the next phase of the program," said Vogel. "The additional funding will enable us to extend these training opportunities, fostering further growth for businesses and creating more pathways for workers to advance in their careers."

For more information about the South Bay Workforce Investment Board and its training programs, please visit www.sbwib.org or call (310) 970-7700.

About South Bay Workforce Investment Board

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board is a nonprofit organization committed to supporting workforce development across Southern California. Through partnerships with local businesses and workforce training programs, SBWIB offers its services at no cost, empowering individuals and businesses to thrive in an ever-changing economy.

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