



## NEWS

### *South Bay Workforce Investment Board*

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#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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#### **Over 1,400 Students and 100+ Employers Participate in the 25th Annual Job Fair Presented by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board at El Camino College**

**HAWTHORNE, CA** – On Wednesday, April 30th, over 1,400 high school and college-age students gathered at El Camino College (ECC) for the 25th Annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth & Young Adult Job Fair, presented by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) in partnership with ECC. The event saw participation from students representing more than 20 local high schools in the South Bay region, as well as several hundred students from El Camino College. In total, over 100 businesses were registered, offering a wide range of employment opportunities to local youth.

The job fair provided students with the chance to connect directly with employers, resulting in more than 150 students being offered employment on the spot and over 3,000 job leads provided to attendees. Many of these students were also scheduled for second interviews, significantly increasing their chances of securing meaningful, long-term employment.

SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel addressed the attendees, stressing the importance of making a strong first impression. "Look the interviewer in the eye, shake their hand, and take this opportunity to learn about the career pathways that could lead to future employment," Vogel said.

Dr. Brenda Thames, President of El Camino College, also welcomed participants, emphasizing the value of the event for young job seekers. "This job fair process continues to be successful in enabling young job seekers to gain first-time employment," Thames said. This year marked the third consecutive year that SBWIB brought the event to the ECC campus.

Torrance City Councilmember Sharon Kalani reminded students that while landing a job is a goal, the journey itself is just as important. "Today, you've already taken the first step by attending this job fair," Kalani remarked. "The skills you're developing and the connections you're making will serve you well as you move forward in your career."

Beyond meeting employers, students participated in interactive workshops led by major organizations like Disneyland and the FBI. These workshops allowed participants to explore career paths and learn firsthand about the skills and qualifications needed to succeed in these exciting industries.

The Youth Job Fair not only provides immediate employment opportunities but also serves as an important resource for students looking to build long-term career pathways. Many of the employers attending the event were seeking entry-level employees, offering young people a chance to develop essential skills and gain valuable work experience. For many teens, this job fair represents their first real-world job experience, a crucial steppingstone to future success.

This annual event is a cornerstone of SBWIB's commitment to helping young people in the South Bay region develop the skills and experience necessary for career success. By facilitating connections between students and employers, the Job Fair offers a valuable opportunity for youth to learn about different industries, explore career options, and secure their first job – all in one day.

#### **About South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB)**

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) is a regional workforce development organization that works with businesses, educational institutions, and community partners to help individuals find employment, develop skills, and build sustainable careers. SBWIB offers a variety of programs and services for youth, adults, and businesses, with a focus on providing local talent to meet the needs of the region's employers.

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Photo caption: Over 1,400 high school and college-age students gathered at El Camino College for the 25th Annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth & Young Adult Job Fair presented by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board on Wednesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025.











Lawndale High school students at South Bay Workforce Investment Board's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth & Young Adult Job Fair at El Camino College.



Hawthorne High school students at South Bay Workforce Investment Board's 25<sup>th</sup> Annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth & Young Adult Job Fair at El Camino College.