



**PRESS RELEASE**

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South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
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**Grants Awarded in Initiative Aimed at Workforce Development**

*South Bay Workforce Investment Board and Partner West Los Angeles College Among Awardees*

**Hawthorne** – Headed by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), a consortium of manufacturing and education partners were recently awarded more than \$200,000 for apprenticeship training in the South Bay Area. The SBWIB received a \$150,000 grant from the California Workforce Accelerator Fund, which will be aligned with a \$60,000 grant awarded to West Los Angeles College (WLAC) by the Advanced Manufacturing Partnership of Southern California (AMP SoCal). Funding from both grants will be used to design a pre-apprenticeship program linked to registered apprenticeship training with a unique focus on engineering occupations in aerospace and other manufacturing sectors.

WLAC is partnering with the SBWIB to train unemployed and other Workforce Development Board eligible candidates for entry-level positions in addition to upgrading skills of incumbent workers. WLAC's area of focus centers on a pre-engineering apprenticeship program.

Southern California remains one of the world's leading aerospace manufacturing regions with \$20.3 billion dollars in labor income and 85,500 industry jobs according to a recent study by the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC). The South Bay Area of LA County is home to the Los Angeles Air Force Base and a dynamic and innovative aerospace community of large firms along with their smaller supply-chain manufacturers. The industry is in the midst of technological transformation as the focus on avionics has shifted to increasingly complex systems of communication, autonomy, advanced manufacturing processes, robotics and artificial intelligence.

The engineering pre-apprenticeship program developed through these grants will help to create a pipeline of highly skilled workers trained to meet the challenges of new technologies as well as ease the impending retirement of a skilled, aging workforce. It will provide a structured training system through which new and incumbent workers will be trained for a variety of engineering jobs, from mechanical to systems engineers, while contributing to the productivity of the company. The program combines on-the-job training with experienced professionals acting as mentors to guide and supervise and links to classroom training utilizing industry-approved curriculum that builds skills and knowledge.

A new pre-apprenticeship training curriculum will be developed with high-schools and colleges in the region to train students with the foundation skills for registered apprenticeship. A career pathway will also be offered through the SBWIB's recent partnership with the Los Angeles Air Force Base to transition veterans from the military to high-wage, registered apprenticeship opportunities in engineering.

"This grant will help WLAC create a pre-apprenticeship program that will prepare the next generation of highly-trained workers," said Jan Vogel, CEO of the SBWIB. "There are so many businesses in the South Bay Area that will ultimately benefit from this skilled workforce."

AMP SoCal collaborates with organizations in both public and private sectors, across government, academia and industry, to strengthen the region's aerospace and defense manufacturing economy, focusing on the



southernmost 10 counties in California. AMP SoCal's shared goal is to arm aerospace and defense manufacturers and their supply chain with the provision of tools, talent, and capacity to master the future.

The SBWIB provides human resource services at no cost to local business and job seekers and manages many labor programs to keep people employed in the Los Angeles South Bay area.