



## NEWS

### *South Bay Workforce Investment Board*

---

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
11539 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 500  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

April 24, 2015

Contact: Jan Vogel 310-970-7700

#### **Inglewood Resident a Product of Inglewood Teen Center and Blueprint Program**

**INGLEWOOD** - Jenny Victorio, 19, first came to the Inglewood Teen Center while she was still a senior at Inglewood High School back in late 2013. Victorio recalled that an Inglewood Teen Center staff member had come to her school speaking of the center and the programs it offered to students. The Inglewood Teen Center just opened its doors in September. The description was enough to entice her to check the center out.

The Inglewood Teen Center, operated in partnership with the City of Inglewood, has services that are linked to the South Bay One-Stop/Inglewood America's Job Center (AJC) and is a place where students can seek academic assistance, employment workshops or simply a safe environment for social activities with similar-aged peers. All the services are available free of charge to students.

As a senior looking to graduate, Victorio had her eyes on some of the employment collateral at the center.

"The same individual that I learned about the center from, asked me if I was looking for a job," Victorio said. "He then pointed me to the Inglewood One-Stop Center and told me about the Blueprint program."

The Inglewood One-Stop Business & Career Center is a cooperative partnership of business, employment development, education, training, local government, public and non-profit organizations that help people with developing job skills, abilities and attitudes essential for finding – and keeping – jobs.

The Blueprint I program is a 30-hour, introductory course that focuses on the qualities and skills necessary to prepare individuals to begin the job searching process. For youth participating in the program, a chance to apply those skills comes at the annual Blueprint For Workplace Success Youth Job Fair in which anywhere from 50-70 companies participate looking to interview – and in some cases hire – young people ages 16-24 and is attended by several hundred South Bay area students.

Victorio completed the Blueprint program last year, attended the job fair as a job seeker and was later hired by Party City. This year she was sitting at the Party City table, as an employee, screening applicants for hire.

William Vasquez, District General Manager for Party City, hired Victorio after he was impressed with her at the 2014 job fair when she was looking for work.

“Jenny is a very positive person. She just gets it,” Vasquez said. “I hire a lot from this job fair. Some are seasonal, some I keep on. It’s no coincidence that our year-after-year increase in sales coincides with when we began attending this job fair. It’s just the quality of kids we’re getting,” he added.

Success for Victorio did not stop there. Now a first-year student at California State University Dominguez Hills, she is quick to point out the turning point to her success.

“Without the (Blueprint) program, I wouldn’t have been confident enough during the interview process,” Victorio said. “My main goal right now is to finish school and get my degree. I’m on the other side and happy to be helping my own community.”

“Jenny is a direct product of a system set in place to give our youth the confidence and tools to succeed in the workplace,” South Bay Workforce Investment Board Executive Director Jan Vogel stated. “I love that she was directly in the hiring seat and inspiring others that are in the place where she was in only last year,” he added.