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**South Bay Workforce Investment Report
Update Report for April 2025**

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) reached a major milestone in April with the U.S. Department of Labor's formal approval of its National Apprenticeship Standards, solidifying SBWIB's leadership in the development and expansion of high-quality, industry-driven apprenticeships. The approval includes 22 registered apprenticeship occupations spanning key growth industries such as advanced manufacturing, aerospace, biotechnology, information technology, and energy. With this designation, SBWIB is now positioned to launch and scale apprenticeship programs nationwide under a unified framework, offering employers and job seekers a reliable path to skills development and career advancement.

In addition to this milestone, SBWIB continued its active engagement with South Bay school districts and regional partners to grow pre-apprenticeship opportunities for youth and young adults. SBWIB staff met with administrators and faculty from Centinela Valley Union High School District, Torrance Unified School District, Wiseburn Unified School District, and El Camino College to advance career pathway initiatives in fields including healthcare, bioscience, mechanical engineering, aerospace, arts, media and entertainment, green technology, and energy.

In collaboration with El Camino College, SBWIB presented the 25th Annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth & Young Adult Job Fair, which welcomed over 1,400 students and young adults from 20 high schools and academies across the South Bay. Nearly 100 employers participated, resulting in more than 150 on-the-spot job offers and numerous invitations for second-round interviews.

SBWIB also supported the Hawthorne Business Expo & Job Fair, helping coordinate more than 20 employers and recruiters to connect with job seekers and promote local employment opportunities.

Capping off a month of high-impact programming, SBWIB co-presented the 2025 Maker Faire at Hawthorne High School in partnership with Lawndale High School. The event drew over 600 students, families, and community members, and featured 30 exhibitors in STEM and creative fields. Participating organizations included SOLA Robotics, Columbia Memorial Space Center, West Basin Municipal Water District, Rolling Robots, Blow a Glass, Inc., Harmony Project, Cal State Long Beach Shark Lab, and Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science. The Maker Faire offered a dynamic space for students to explore innovation, design, and hands-on learning.

These efforts reflect SBWIB's continued commitment to building a robust talent pipeline, advancing youth engagement, reducing barriers to employment and ensuring equitable access to high-quality education and career opportunities across the South Bay and beyond.

**JAN VOGEL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**



NEWS

South Bay Workforce Investment Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 1, 2025

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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 30th, 2025.







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

DAILY BREEZE

Local News

LOCAL NEWS

150 South Bay high school, El Camino College students get offers at youth job fair



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 30th, 2025. (Courtesy SBWIB)



By **TYLER SHAUN EVAINS** | tevains@scng.com

UPDATED: May 7, 2025 at 3:29 PM PDT

South Bay students from more than 20 local high schools and community colleges recently received job offers or got employment leads, and learned about different careers at the 25th Annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth & Young Adult Job Fair.

The event, hosted by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board on April 30 at El Camino College, saw more than 1,400 students and featured more than 100 employers who offered jobs to 150 high school and El Camino College students on the spot, as well as shared more than 3,000 job opportunities to attendees, according to a press release from the workforce investment board.

Many students were also scheduled for second interviews, the release said, increasing their chances of securing meaningful, long-term employment. Through the annual event, teens often get their first real-world work experience as a crucial stepping stone to success, the release added.

During the event, SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel told attendees about the importance of making a strong first impression, encouraging them to look their interviewers in the eye, shake their hands and take the opportunity to learn about various career pathways.

This was the third consecutive year that the job fair has been held at El Camino College.

"This job fair process continues to be successful in enabling young job seekers to gain first-time employment," El Camino College President Brenda Thames said at the event.



Torrance Councilmember Sharon Kalani, meanwhile, reminded students that while landing a job is a goal, the journey to get there is just as important.

"The skills you're developing and the connections you're making," she said, "will serve you well as you move forward in your career."

On top of providing immediate employment opportunities, the annual youth job fair also gets students' feet in the door of long-term career pathways through entry level positions.

Students also participated in workshops led by Disneyland, the FBI and other companies and organizations in various industries.

The annual event is a cornerstone of the SBWIB's efforts to help young people in the South Bay region develop skills and experience for career success by connecting them to employers, teaching them about different industries, exploring career options and securing their first job all in one day.

Originally Published: May 7, 2025 at 3:26 PM PDT



Southern California Apprenticeship Network Presents

NETWORK BUSINESS MIXER

Join SCAN for an evening of connection, collaboration, and celebration!

Tuesday, May 27th, 2025

5:30 PM – 7:30 PM

**Common Space Brewery
3411 W El Segundo Blvd, Hawthorne, CA**

Scan the QR Code or RSVP at <https://tinyurl.com/SCAN-May2025>



SCAN
Southern California
Apprenticeship Network
(Non-Traditional)

For more information contact, South Bay Workforce Investment Board (310) 910-7700; scan@sbwib.org



Recruitment Event

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 04, 2025

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Torrance One-Stop

1220 Engracia Ave., Torrance, CA 90501



Various Openings

Scan the QR Code to RSVP



Or visit:

<https://tinyurl.com/DisneylandRecruitment>

For more information, contact:

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Amendment Disclosure: SBWIB has programs funded via federal funds, please visit

<https://StevensAmendmentDisclosure.short.gy/2025> to learn more.