



South Bay
Workforce
Investment
Board
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South Bay Workforce Investment Board

Update Report for January 2026

Overview

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board continues to advance workforce development efforts that connect residents with career exploration, skills training, and employment opportunities throughout the South Bay region. Through close collaboration with local school districts, colleges, employers, and community organizations, SBWIB supports apprenticeship and pre apprenticeship pathways that align education with real world workforce needs.

These efforts focus on building strong connections between education and industry, helping students and job seekers gain exposure to viable career pathways while supporting employers in developing a skilled and prepared workforce. SBWIBs contributes to long term economic stability, career mobility, and talent development across South Bay communities.

City Highlights

Redondo Beach

SBWIB celebrated the graduation of participants from its Aero Flex Apprenticeship Program during a ceremony in partnership with Northrop Grumman. Apprentices completed hands on training at Northrop Grumman facilities and reached major milestones as they prepared for long term careers in aerospace manufacturing and advanced production roles.

The graduation event highlighted the strength of collaboration between SBWIB, Northrop Grumman, and regional education partners in developing the next generation of aerospace professionals. Apprentices advanced through structured training that combined technical

instruction, mentorship, and paid work experience, demonstrating the value of earn and learn pathways in connecting local talent to high demand aerospace careers.

Northrop Grumman continues to serve as a key partner by providing rotational learning opportunities, technical skill development, and mentorship from experienced professionals, helping apprentices build both confidence and career readiness.

SBWIB collaborates with Redondo Beach Unified School District and regional employer partners to support planning and alignment of apprenticeship pathways in advanced manufacturing and technical fields. This work focuses on aligning curriculum and employer engagement strategies to ensure students and young adults are prepared for future workforce opportunities.

These efforts help build a foundation for sustainable career pathways that reflect regional labor market demand while expanding access to hands on learning experiences.

El Segundo

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) has maintained an on-site office at Los Angeles Air Force Base in El Segundo for the past six years. Through this presence, SBWIB provides employment and career services to transitioning service members and their spouses, supporting their successful transition into the local workforce upon separation from military service.

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) governing this partnership is currently in the renewal process for an additional three-year term and has received verbal approval from base leadership. While the formal review and execution of the MOU are underway, SBWIB continues to deliver uninterrupted services to military professionals at the installation.

Torrance

SBWIB works closely with Torrance based education partners to support workforce pathway development connected to aerospace and advanced manufacturing careers. El Camino College plays a central role in this effort by supporting career exploration, academic counseling, and referral into apprenticeship opportunities such as the Aero Flex pathway.

Several Aero Flex graduates reported discovering the program through El Camino College while seeking new career directions, including individuals transitioning from unrelated fields or following job displacement. Through coordination between SBWIB, El Camino College, and employer partners, participants gained access to technical training, paid work experience, and mentorship that supported successful entry into aerospace careers.

In addition, SBWIB partners with Torrance Unified School District to deliver pre apprenticeship programming at Torrance High School, South High School, North High School, and West High School. These programs introduce students to aerospace, advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and creative media career pathways and help prepare them for future participation in apprenticeship programs, post-secondary education, or employment.

Carson

SBWIB supports apprenticeship opportunities in the City of Carson through its partnership with Revolution National Pest Council, a Carson based registered apprenticeship sponsor. Youth participants have been enrolled into RNPCs apprenticeship program and are receiving structured training in skilled trade occupations.

This partnership expands access to hands on career pathways for Carson residents while strengthening connections between education, training, and employment opportunities in technical fields that respond to local employer needs.

Hawthorne

SBWIB conducts regional workforce coordination from its offices in Hawthorne, supporting employer engagement, partner collaboration, and workforce system alignment across the South Bay. Hawthorne based activities include outreach to employers, coordination with education partners, and planning efforts that support apprenticeship readiness throughout the region.

This centralized coordination helps ensure consistent and effective delivery of workforce development services across all South Bay cities.

Regional Workforce Efforts

Across the South Bay, SBWIB supports apprenticeship and pre apprenticeship development through collaboration with employers, education partners, and community-based organizations. This includes work with creative industry partners such as Musicians at Play and community organizations such as Jail Guitar Doors to expand access to career connected learning opportunities.

SBWIB continues to advance earn and learn pathways that demonstrate how education, workforce development, and industry collaboration can create meaningful career opportunities for residents while supporting the talent needs of employers throughout the region.



NEWS

South Bay Workforce Investment Board

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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December 16, 2025

**SBWIB Celebrates Latest Aero-Flex Apprenticeship Graduates from
Northrop Grumman**

Hawthorne, CA — The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) proudly celebrated the newest graduates of its Aero-Flex Apprenticeship Program during a ceremony held in El Segundo. These apprentices, who completed their hands-on training at Northrop Grumman Corporation, represent the latest success stories in a workforce pipeline that continues to connect local talent with high-demand aerospace careers.

The event featured remarks from Henry Pham, Northrop Grumman Section Manager; Sergio Pineda, M.S., El Camino College Academic Counselor; and Fabian Rodriguez, Northrop Grumman Systems Engineer, each highlighting the importance of industry partnerships, mentorship, and developing the next generation of aerospace professionals.

For many, the Aero-Flex pathway represents not just a program, but a life-changing opportunity. One graduate, Gualberto Monarrez, shared that he discovered the SBWIB Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship through El Camino College shortly after being laid off. “I had just recently got laid off and saw this opportunity to apply for Northrop through Aero-Flex. I took it because I had nothing to lose, and it paid off. In the end, I had a great experience at Northrop. I learned so many things I never even thought were possible to work on,” he said.

After completing his apprenticeship, he reflected, “You learn a lot. I had a chance to move departments. Northrop is a good place to work, you have a lot of places to grow, learn new skills, and meet people.”

His story mirrors that of many participants: unemployed, seeking training, and leaving the program with certifications, a full-time role in aerospace, and a powerful sense of direction.

Another graduate, Luc Deneui, began with a bachelor’s degree in music and a desire to transition into aerospace. “I heard about Aero-Flex through El Camino College. As someone starting in the music field, it was tough getting my foot in the door of major companies. The

internship at Northrop through Aero-Flex was amazing because it actually allowed me to gain experience and physical skills that are relevant in the field,” he said.

After entering the full apprenticeship, Luc completed the four-year machinist program at Northrop Grumman. “They were very generous and took a chance with someone very green like me. I was able to move through different departments and learn from highly trained mentors. This program truly trains the next generation.”

The Aero-Flex model, designed by SBWIB in partnership with aerospace employers, provides a flexible, employer-driven earn-and-learn pathway that prepares workers for high-demand careers in machining, manufacturing, and engineering support.

Northrop Grumman continues to be one of the strongest program partners, providing apprentices with rotational learning, hands-on machining experience, mentorship from seasoned professionals, and the opportunity to be considered for long-term employment.

Executive Director of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, Jan Vogel, praised the graduates stating, *“These graduates represent the power of opportunity, training, and industry collaboration. SBWIB’s Aero-Flex programs open doors to life-changing careers, and Northrop Grumman has been an exceptional partner in investing in the future workforce. We are incredibly proud of these apprentices who worked hard, gained real-world skills, and are now prepared to thrive in high-demand aerospace careers.”*

The SBWIB Aero-Flex programs allow job seekers, whether brand new to machining, displaced workers, or students exploring new paths, to gain; foundational technical education, industry-recognized certifications, paid on-the-job training, mentorship by industry experts, and employment opportunities with leading aerospace employers.

As SBWIB continues to expand its earn-and-learn pathways, the graduates stand as a testament to what is possible when education, workforce development, and industry come together with a shared mission: to prepare individuals for meaningful, high-wage careers while supporting the talent needs of aerospace employers.

Congratulations to all the newest Aero-Flex Apprenticeship graduates.

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Photo caption: South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) celebrates latest Aero-Flex Apprenticeship graduates from Northrop Grumman. Pictured left to right: Alex Cabalu, Special Projects Development – Apprenticeships, SBWIB; Sergio Pineda, M.S. Academic Counselor, El Camino College; Henry Pham, Section Manager – 2nd Shift, Northrop Grumman Corporation; Luc Deneui, Aero-Flex Apprenticeship graduate; Fabian Rodriguez, System Engineer, Northrop Grumman Corporation.





Photo caption: South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) celebrates the latest Aero-Flex Apprenticeship graduates from Northrop Grumman. Pictured from left to right are the graduates: Gualberto Monarrez, Luc Deneui, and Edgardo Gonzalez.

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- Rapid Response
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Inglewood, CA 90301
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Torrance One-Stop

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Carson One-Stop

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To get started today, contact us:
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This project received \$5,820,000 (0.5% of its total cost) from a grant awarded under the Apprenticeship Building America grant, as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration.

This program is provided by equal opportunity employers. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling in advance to CRS 1-800-735-2922

AERO-FLEX & BIO-FLEX PRE-APPRENTICESHIPS

Learn about exciting careers in Aerospace or Bioscience through our Pre-Apprenticeship Programs!



 [SBWIB.ORG/AERO-FLEX](http://www.sbwib.org/aero-flex)



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Unlock exciting career pathways in two of the most innovative industries! Our pre-apprenticeship programs provide hands-on learning experiences, industry-recognized credentials, and direct connections to top employers in Aerospace and Bioscience.

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- Gain real-world experience and industry-recognized credentials
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- Continue to college, a registered apprenticeship, and/or employment


Requirements to enroll into SBWIB Pre-Apprenticeship Programs:

- Must be 17 or older
- Must live in Los Angeles County
- Other eligibility criteria may apply

Interested in enrolling or have questions?

CONTACT US

 Info@sbwib.org

 (310) 970-7700



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SCAN

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**FOR EMPLOYERS,
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EDUCATION PROVIDERS,
COMMUNITY-BASED ORGS &
OTHER INTERESTED PARTNERS.**

Explore the benefits of apprenticeship as a strategic workforce recruiting, training and development model while networking and learning. Learn about the resources available to your organization!

SCAN is:

An employer and stakeholder consortium which brings together those interested in **growing and expanding apprenticeship across Southern California** and:

- creates employment opportunities** for job seekers,
- uplifts underrepresented communities** and those with employment barriers,
- provides employers with a quality pipeline of world-class local talent.**

SCAN's purpose:

We provide a forum for business, government, educators, workforce boards, community-based organizations, labor, and other interested parties to come together to **share information, access resources and work together to grow apprenticeship programs** across Southern California and the State—to support the State's apprenticeship enrollment and placement goals of **500,000 apprentices by 2029.**

Attend monthly meetings:



Become an Active Member

Monthly virtual SCAN meetings occur the second Thursday of the month from 12:00-1:00pm PT on Teams. The meetings are an opportunity to learn about resources and connect with others across the region around apprenticeship.



Share Apprenticeship Needs

Please email scan@sbwib.org with any suggested topics for future SCAN meetings or areas where you need apprenticeship assistance. We can connect you to the appropriate resources.



Join a Subcommittee

Email scan@sbwib.org to let us know if you have interest in working on a subcommittee. The time commitment is minimal (joining monthly calls) and very critical to the effectiveness of the network.

GET IN TOUCH

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