



South Bay Workforce  
Investment Board  
11539 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite  
500  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
(310) 970-7700

## South Bay Workforce Investment Board

### Update Report for March/April 2026

The South Bay Workforce Investment Board SBWIB kept momentum strong throughout March and April, bringing career pathways to life through hands on experiences, stronger partnerships, and expanded opportunities for South Bay residents. From aerospace site visits to healthcare focused campus experiences, SBWIB continued connecting youth and job seekers to real world environments, helping them see what is possible and how to get there.

This period reflected a continued focus on making workforce development feel real and accessible. Through industry exposure, community events, and regional collaboration, participants gained valuable insight into high growth sectors while building the confidence and skills needed to move forward.

#### **Hawthorne**

SBWIB's Hawthorne Teen Center brought together students and community leaders for a Black History Month celebration that highlighted creativity, culture, and youth leadership. Students from Hawthorne High School and Lawndale High School participated in musical performances, spoken word poetry, and visual art displays that celebrated African American history and contributions.

The event welcomed local elected officials and community partners and included a Certificate of Recognition honoring the Teen Center's continued impact. Beyond the celebration, the event reinforced the Teen Center's role as a space where young people build confidence, express themselves, and stay connected to education and future career opportunities.

#### **Torrance**

SBWIB continued to provide students with opportunities to engage directly with the region's aerospace and technology sectors through hands on learning experiences and employer engagement. Ninety Students from Torrance area high schools, including South High School, Torrance High School, and North High School, participated in a variety of pre apprenticeship programming that included industry site visits and guided tours with local employers, where they were introduced to real world applications of advanced technologies and observed how innovation moves from concept to production.

Students were exposed to key elements of the aerospace field, including product development, engineering processes, and testing environments, giving them a clearer understanding of how different roles contribute to

the industry. These experiences were designed to connect classroom learning to real world applications while helping students visualize future career pathways.

Thirty-two of the students enrolled into the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship participated in a field trip to a company called, FlightWave Aerospace in Torrance, to gain firsthand exposure to the fast-growing unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) industry. The field trip provided students with an immersive look into one of the region's most innovative aerospace companies. FlightWave Aerospace has established itself as a leader in advanced unmanned aerial systems, specializing in long-endurance drones designed for defense, intelligence, surveillance, and commercial applications.

In addition, SBWIB supported career exploration across multiple pathways, including creative and technology focused industries. Students participated in field trip based experiences that introduced them to healthcare careers, digital media, immersive technology, and emerging career fields, broadening their awareness of opportunities beyond traditional career tracks.

Together, these experiences helped students better understand the range of careers available within the South Bay while reinforcing the connection between education, skill development, and long term employment opportunities.

### **Carson**

SBWIB continued to expand healthcare career pathways through collaboration with California State University Dominguez Hills and regional partners. As part of this effort students participated in a coordinated field trip experience that provided exposure to healthcare and related fields including kinesiology emergency medical services and clinical career pathways.

Participants engaged in hands on learning activities and campus based experiences that introduced them to real world applications in healthcare and sports related fields. The experience extended beyond the classroom helping students better understand both educational pathways and career opportunities available within the region.

### **Lawndale**

Students connected to SBWIB programming in the Lawndale area continued to engage in arts media and entertainment pathways through hands on learning and creative programming. Participants explored careers in music production performance and digital media while building technical and creative skills aligned with industry needs.

Lawndale students also participated in regional youth programming that emphasized both creative expression and career readiness supporting their overall development and connection to future opportunities.

### **Inglewood**

SBWIB maintained strong youth engagement in Inglewood through ongoing Teen Center programming and partnerships focused on career awareness and workforce readiness. Participants continued to build foundational skills explore career pathways and connect with opportunities that support long term success.

## **Gardena**

SBWIB continued engaging with employers and partners in Gardena to support workforce development efforts and expand access to career opportunities for local residents. Through ongoing coordination and outreach SBWIB strengthened connections between job seekers and employers while supporting activities that promote hiring and career exploration.

## **El Segundo**

SBWIB continued to support workforce development efforts connected to the South Bay aerospace sector through ongoing employer engagement and career pathway initiatives. These efforts help ensure that local students and job seekers remain connected to evolving industry opportunities while strengthening the region's talent pipeline.

Additionally, the SBWIB is excited to announce that a new agreement with the Los Angeles Air Force Base has been signed that extends our services to the base for an additional 10 years! Currently, the SBWIB maintains an office at the base, which is staffed with a SBWIB representative who provides workforce services to military professionals transitioning out of the military and into civilian careers. The SBWIB has been doing this for 6 years and now the Air Force has agreed to extend our contract for another 10 years.

## **General Updates**

*The 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Blueprint for Workplace Success Youth and Young Adult Job Fair* - The largest job fair of the year is happening for youth and young adults on April 28, 2026, in a joint collaboration between SBWIB and El Camino College. More than 1,000 youth attend every year. This is made possible because the SBWIB arranges buses to pick up the kids at area high schools and bring them to the event. It's their opportunity to get summer jobs, internships, and full or part-time employment. More than 100+ employers attend ready to hire youth. The fair hours on April 28<sup>th</sup> are 10AM-2PM, held at the El Camino College campus, Student Services Plaza.

SBWIB continued to advance its California Opportunity Youth Apprenticeship (COYA) programming across aerospace, healthcare, and arts media and entertainment pathways. These programs combine workplace readiness training technical instruction and hands-on career exposure helping students build the skills and confidence needed to pursue meaningful careers.

During this period SBWIB also moved forward with several major funding initiatives to expand its impact. The organization submitted a proposal for a \$1.5 million dollar NASA Space Workforce Hub grant aimed at developing a statewide space workforce ecosystem and positioning the South Bay as a leader in space related careers. In addition, SBWIB submitted a \$2.5 million dollar reentry grant proposal to the United States Department of Labor to expand services and career pathways for justice involved individuals.

SBWIB continued to lead regional collaboration through the Southern California Apprenticeship Network SCAN bringing together employers, educators, and workforce partners to grow apprenticeship opportunities. As part of these efforts, SBWIB is preparing to host an upcoming SCAN Mixer at Common Space Brewery in Hawthorne, creating an opportunity for partners to connect share ideas and strengthen workforce initiatives across the region.

26th Annual  
Blueprint for Workplace Success  
Youth & Young Adult

# JOB FAIR

Meet 100+ employers who hire high school 12th graders & older!  
El Camino College students of all ages are welcome!  
Register today at the QR Code below!



**April 28, 2026**

10:00am - 2:00pm



**El Camino Community College**

*Student Services Plaza*

16007 Crenshaw Blvd

Torrance, CA 90506

Free parking in LOT C (2nd floor & above)



**REGISTER**



<https://tinyurl.com/BlueprintJobFair2026>



BLUEPRINT  
for WORKPLACE SUCCESS

This WIOA Title 1 financially assisted program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling in advance to CRS 1-800-735-2922 or 310-680-3700. Stevens Amendment Disclosure: SBWIB has programs funded via federal funds, please visit <https://StevensAmendmentDisclosure.short.gy/2025> to learn more.



NEWS

*South Bay Workforce Investment Board*

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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

April 10, 2026

Contact: Jan Vogel 310-970-7700

**South Bay Workforce Investment Board Facilitates Field Trip for  
High School Aero-Flex Pre-Apprentices to FlightWave Aerospace in Torrance**

**HAWTHORNE** – Thirty-two Aero-Flex Pre-Apprentices from South and Torrance High Schools were hosted by FlightWave Aerospace in Torrance to gain firsthand exposure to the fast-growing unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) industry. The field trip, coordinated by the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), provided students with an immersive look into one of the region’s most innovative aerospace companies.

Founded in Torrance, FlightWave Aerospace has established itself as a leader in advanced unmanned aerial systems, specializing in long-endurance drones designed for defense, intelligence, surveillance, and commercial applications. Its platforms are known for their hybrid propulsion systems, vertical takeoff and landing (VTOL) capabilities, and rugged design, allowing them to operate in challenging environments where traditional aircraft may not be practical. The company’s work spans mission-critical operations, from border surveillance and disaster response to infrastructure inspection and mapping, placing it at the forefront of next-generation aerospace technology.

During the day-long visit, the junior and senior students were welcomed by FlightWave President Shawn Webb, who also serves on the SBWIB Board of Directors. Webb detailed how advanced drone technology is conceived, engineered, tested, and deployed, emphasizing the collaborative nature of aerospace innovation across mechanical, electrical, and software engineering disciplines. Students rotated through multiple technical stations, observing real-world workflows such as New Product Introduction (NPI), prototype assembly, avionics integration, and live flight testing.

FlightWave engineers and technical staff provided hands-on demonstrations and candid insights into their career journeys, offering students a clear understanding of how classroom learning translates into real-world applications. Students explored drone components up close, examined infrared imaging systems, and observed how modeling software evolves into fully functional prototypes. The experience highlighted not only the complexity of aerospace systems, but also the accessibility of career pathways for motivated students.

“These kinds of opportunities that we provide for students enrolled in our pre-apprenticeship programs help them bring their classroom learning to life in a meaningful and inspiring way,” noted Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director. “As they engage with professionals in high-demand industries, they are inspired to explore future career pathways in aerospace and advanced manufacturing.”

Student reflections underscored the impact of the experience. Many described the visit as eye-opening and influential in shaping their future goals:

“I really enjoyed seeing a more intimately sized aerospace company and getting an in-depth understanding of all the little aspects. I hope to be able to intern at your company one day,” wrote Lilly Mueck.

Adrian Luna highlighted the interdisciplinary nature of the work: “I really enjoyed talking to your team and gained valuable insight on how to apply computer science to aerospace engineering, alongside tips on how to build my resume and pursue an internship at FlightWave.”

Hands-on exposure stood out as a key takeaway for several students. “My favorite part was the drone testing and how the infrared cameras worked,” shared Jonah Kim, while Andrew Dysim noted, “Seeing firsthand how employees flight test and manufacture new drone prototypes was very interesting to see each individual’s specific job.”

Others emphasized the broader learning environment and company culture. “The atmosphere and people were amazing, and we noticed how FlightWave seems like a healthy and supportive work environment,” wrote one student group. Another added, “The presenters were passionate and open to our questions, which made it a safe and engaging place to learn.”

The overwhelmingly positive feedback highlighted not only student enthusiasm for aerospace careers, but also the importance of industry partnerships in workforce development. By opening its doors, FlightWave Aerospace provided students with a rare, behind-the-scenes look at cutting-edge innovation—bridging the gap between education and industry.

SBWIB’s sector-focused Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship pathways were established to respond to employer demand and evolving labor market needs. Current offerings include Aero-Flex/Sky-Flex (aerospace and aviation), Space-Flex (space economy careers), Bio-Flex (biotechnology and life sciences), Advanced Manufacturing & Engineering Pathways, and Water-Flex (water utilities and infrastructure careers).

For further information about apprenticeships and the no-cost services and programs provided by SBWIB for individuals and businesses, visit [www.sbwib.org](http://www.sbwib.org).

# # #

**Photo caption:** Thirty-two Aero-Flex Pre-Apprentices from South and Torrance High Schools explore the future of aerospace during an immersive, hands-on visit to FlightWave Aerospace field trip, facilitated by South Bay Workforce Investment Board.







**NEWS**

***South Bay Workforce Investment Board***

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
11539 Hawthorne Blvd., Suite 500  
Hawthorne, CA 90250  
Contact: Jan Vogel 310-970-7700

March 9, 2026

**Hawthorne Teen Center Hosts Black History Celebration Featuring Student Performances and Community Leaders**

**Hawthorne, CA** — The South Bay Workforce Investment Board’s (SBWIB) Hawthorne Teen Center proudly hosted its annual Black History Event on February 25, 2026, bringing together students from Hawthorne High School and Lawndale High School for an afternoon of cultural celebration, artistic expression, and community unity.

The event showcased musical performances, spoken word poetry, and a vibrant display of African American artwork and banners. The artwork and decorative displays were generously donated by Julie Brown, Community Schools and Community Engagement, along with Prairie Vista Middle School teachers Mrs. Homman and Mrs. Perez, helping to create an inspiring and educational atmosphere for all attendees.

The celebration was honored by the presence of several distinguished community leaders, including City of Hawthorne Mayor Pro Tem, Alex Monteiro and Council Member, Katrina Manning; City of Lawndale Mayor, Robert Pullen-Miles and Council Member, Pat Kearney. Also attending from the Southern California Regional Occupational Center, Superintendent, Dr. Julian Rodriguez; and from the SBWIB, CEO, Jan Vogel and Chairman, Glenn Mitchell.

A special highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Certificate of Recognition by City of Hawthorne Mayor Pro Tem, Alex Monteiro. The certificate honored the Hawthorne Teen Center for its commitment to promoting awareness, meaningful dialogue, and appreciation of African American history and culture, and for fostering leadership and empowerment among local youth.

The program began with a moving rendition of “Lift Every Voice and Sing” performed by Jennifer Rockett, a local educator, accomplished musician, singer, and University of Southern California alumna holding a master’s degree in education.

The Music Recording Pathway Band at Lawndale High School energized the audience with curated selections from influential Black artists across generations. Their performance

included: “Love” by Keyshia Cole, “Poison” by Bell Biv DeVoe, “Maria Maria” by Santana featuring The Product G&B, “Frontin” by Pharrell Williams, “Kiss of Life” by Sade, and “After the Storm” by Kali Uchis featuring Tyler, the Creator.

Student Jace Coates delivered a compelling spoken word performance, reciting three powerful poems, “Leftover” by Langston Hughes, “I, Too” by Langston Hughes, “Caged Bird” by Maya Angelou.

The event highlighted the importance of connecting youth to culture, history, and future career pathways.

“As we celebrate Black History Month, we also celebrate the brilliance and leadership of our young people,” said Jan Vogel, CEO of the SBWIB.

The event served not only as a celebration of Black history and culture but also as a platform for student voice, artistic excellence, and community partnership. Through music, poetry, and visual art, the Hawthorne Teen Center reaffirmed its commitment to honoring the past, celebrating the present, and inspiring the future.

About the Hawthorne Teen Center

Established through a partnership between the City of Hawthorne and the SBWIB, the Hawthorne Teen Center provides youth ages 13 to 18 with a safe, supportive environment where they can explore educational pathways, gain workforce readiness skills, and build leadership and teamwork abilities. For more information, visit [www.sbwib.org](http://www.sbwib.org).

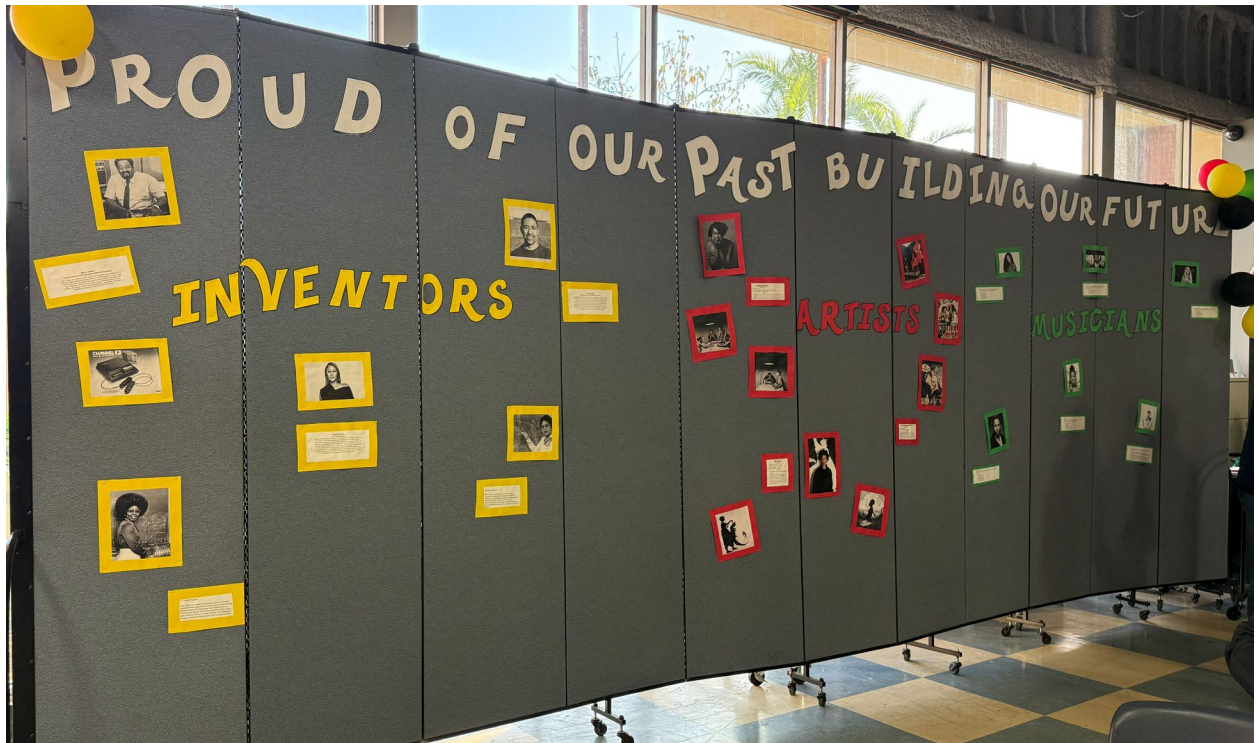
# # #



Photo caption: Students from the Hawthorne Teen Center stand alongside City of Hawthorne Mayor Pro Tem, Alex Monteiro, as the City of Hawthorne presents a Certificate of Recognition honoring the Teen Center's dedication to celebrating Black History Month and promoting education, leadership, and appreciation of African American history and culture within the community.











# South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers



**No Cost Services**

## Be Our Next Success Story

### Business Services

- Hiring Support
- Recruitment Services
- Customized Training
- Rapid Response
- Layoff Aversions
- Apprenticeships

### Adult Services

- Job Placement
- On-the-Job Training
- Veteran Transition
- Apprenticeship
- Career Pathways 180
- Dislocated Worker

### Youth Services

- Summer Jobs Program
- Teen Centers
- Pre-Apprenticeship
- College Preparation
- Blueprint for Workplace Success Training



A WORKFORCE  
DEVELOPMENT BOARD

#### Inglewood One-Stop

110 S. La Brea Ave.  
Inglewood, CA 90301  
(310) 680-3700

#### Gardena One-Stop

16801 S. Western Ave.  
Gardena, CA 90247  
(310) 538-7070

#### Torrance One-Stop

1220 Engracia Ave.  
Torrance, CA 90501  
(310) 680-3830

#### Carson One-Stop

801 E. Carson St.  
Carson, CA 90745  
(310) 680-3870



America's JobCenter  
of California™

This WIOA Title 1 financially assisted program or activity is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling in advance to CRS 1-800-735-2922. Stevens Amendment Disclosure: SBWIB has programs funded via federal funds, please visit <https://StevensAmendmentDisclosure.short.gy/2025> to learn more.

# SPACE-FLEX

**Pre-Apprenticeship &  
Registered Apprenticeship  
Equitable & Innovative  
Training Opportunities**



**To get started today, contact us:**  
South Bay Workforce Investment Board  
[www.sbwib.org/space-flex](http://www.sbwib.org/space-flex)  
Email: [info@sbwib.org](mailto:info@sbwib.org); Phone: (310) 970-7700



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



# SCAN

Southern California  
Apprenticeship Network  
(Non-Traditional)

**FOR EMPLOYERS,  
WORKFORCE BOARDS,  
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](mailto: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](mailto: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

contact: Alex Hussain  
[alex@new-way.solutions](mailto:alex@new-way.solutions)

[scan@sbwib.org](mailto:scan@sbwib.org)  
[www.sbwib.org/scan](http://www.sbwib.org/scan)

11539 Hawthorne Blvd.  
Hawthorne, CA 90250

