



PRESS RELEASE

South Bay Workforce Investment Board
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**South Bay Workforce Investment Board and Civic Leaders
Honor Hawthorne Teen Center on Eighth Anniversary**

HAWTHORNE – More than 100 youth, parents, community partners and civic leaders joined with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) to celebrate the eighth anniversary of the Hawthorne Teen Center, December 1st, at the center which is located at the Hawthorne Memorial Center.

The center's Director, Gloria Garcia and her staff, were honored by SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel, who highlighted their many achievements in providing services and life shaping experiences that motivate youth to stay in school, prepare for college and vocational training, and also enjoy a safe after school gathering place where they can enjoy recreational and other leisure activities. Also paying tribute to the center was Hawthorne Mayor Alex Vargas who praised the student volunteers and staff for their efforts in expanding the services and opportunities for all the youth in the community over the years.

Following a performance by the Asian Pacific Islanders Club from Leuzinger High School, four students were presented with certificates of achievement for their involvement in the Teen Center, including: Grace Ngwa, a senior at Leuzinger High School, winner of the Academic Achievement Award; Meredith Dawson, who was given the Teen Center Ambassador Certificate; Dwayne Webb received the Sportsmanship Certificate for his athletic achievements on the basketball court; and, Darryl Fantroy, recipient of the Best Attendance Award, who is a regular center participant and role model to other youth.

Other community partners in attendance included: Dr. Dena Maloney, President of El Camino College; Jose Anaya, Dean of Community Advancement at El Camino College; Cammie Vogel, Centinela Valley Union High School District; Linda Phu, Economic Development Department; Ricky Mandahal, Director of Finance for the City of Hawthorne; Wayne Spencer, SBWIB Chairman of the Board; Patricia Donaldson, President/CEO of the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce; and Erick Holly, President of the Inglewood Chamber of Commerce.

Open weekday afternoons from 3-6 pm, the Hawthorne Teen Center provides a safe environment where teens can have fun and learn through games, computers, counseling and workshops that are provided by the SBWIB in partnership with city of Hawthorne. For more information contact Jan Vogel at (310) 970-7700 or jvogel@sbwib.org.



Meredith Dawson, second from left, was named winner of the Ambassador Award as the person who most embodies the goals and values of the Hawthorne Teen Center. Offering their congratulations are from left: Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director; Hawthorne Mayor Alex Vargas; and SBWIB Chairman of the Board Wayne Spencer. The presentation was part of the Teen Center's eighth anniversary celebration held December 1st.