



SBWIB

27th Annual

Awards Ceremony

2022

Torrance Marriott Hotel • November 3, 2022



A WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT BOARD



America's **JobCenter**
of California™

WELCOME MESSAGE



Jan Vogel
Chief Executive Officer
South Bay Workforce
Investment Board, Inc.

Welcome to our 27th Annual Awards Ceremony and thank you for taking the time to join our board members and staff of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board to honor the outstanding achievements this past year by individuals who have successfully overcome barriers to employment, as well as the employers and community partners that comprise our dynamic workforce consortium here in the South Bay.

Tonight we will present the prestigious Esther Williams Award of Excellence to the Honorable Olivia Valentine, City Councilmember of the great City of Hawthorne. Ms. Valentine has been a steadfast supporter of the SBWIB over the years as well the champion for economic vitality, not only in Hawthorne, but throughout the South Bay region.

For more than 40 years we have provided services through our four One-Stop Business & Career Centers for residents and businesses in Carson, El Segundo, Gardena, Hawthorne, Hermosa Beach, Inglewood, Lawndale, Lomita, Manhattan Beach, Redondo Beach and Torrance.

The net proceeds from tonight's event help us to sustain and fund vital youth-oriented programs, including the Inglewood and Hawthorne Teen Centers, the Blueprint for Workplace Success job readiness program and many other youth programs.

Thank you again for attending and your year-round loyal support.



PROGRAM OF EVENTS

Welcome

Mayor George K. Chen, City of Torrance
Jan Vogel - CEO SBWIB, Inc.

Inspirational Message

Rabbi Yossi Mintz, Founder & Director
Friendship Foundation

Pledge of Allegiance

CA State Senator Steven Bradford

God Bless America

Donald Perry
SBWIB, Inc. Staff Member

Acknowledgment of Guests & Sponsors

Jan Vogel

Dinner & Entertainment

Brenna Whitaker

Outstanding Alumni Award Recipients

Jan Vogel

Outstanding Business Award Recipients

Glenn Mitchell, SBWIB, Inc. Board Member
Chris Cagle, SBWIB, Inc. Staff Member

Outstanding Partner Award Recipients

Jan Vogel

Presenting the Esther Williams Award of Excellence

Olivia Valentine

Councilmember, City of Hawthorne

Outstanding Training Provider Recipients

Laura Bischoff, SBWIB, Inc. Staff Member

Closing Remarks

Jan Vogel

**WE ARE PROUD TO CONTINUE
OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH THE
SOUTH BAY WORKFORCE
INVESTMENT BOARD**



**WE LOOK FORWARD
TO CONTINUED SUCCESS AT
INTUIT DOME AND BEYOND!**

ESTHER WILLIAMS AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

For 11 years, Councilmember Olivia Valentine has served on the Hawthorne City Council, including two years as Mayor Pro Tem. She was first elected in 2011 after having served on the city's Planning Commission for two years.

During her tenure, Mrs. Valentine has consistently been an advocate for making Hawthorne a destination city in the South Bay. A supporter of economic growth through business development, she was one of the principal members that formed the Hawthorne Economic Development Council, which was initially a coalition of business owners, city staff, the Hawthorne Chamber of Commerce, and El Camino College Small Business Development Center. She was the guiding light in the creation of the annual Hawthorne Business Expo in 2016, which showcases Hawthorne's business community to hundreds of visitors and start up entrepreneurs each year.

Councilmember Valentine has also represented her city on a variety of regional boards and is a past chairperson of the prestigious South Bay Cities Council of Governments. The SBWIB is proud to recognize Councilmember Valentine for her years of community service and her steadfast support of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board.



Olivia Valentine
Councilmember, City
of Hawthorne

Esther Williams was one of the pioneer members of the SBWIB and the first chairperson in 1982. Esther was well known for her commitment and leadership in making sure the Board fulfilled its purpose of providing the highest quality job training and job placement services for adults and youth in the South Bay.

The Esther Williams Award of Excellence is presented to those individuals who epitomize her record of service and commitment to the lofty ideals and purpose of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board, and who strive to improve the quality of life in our communities through their professionalism and lasting contributions.



AWARD RECIPIENTS

Visit our Event Page for additional information and complete stories.



South Bay One-Stop Business & Career Centers



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CARSON

Chrisie Morris, 22, is a former foster youth who desired to have a career in media/entertainment, but did not know where to start. She was referred to the South Bay One-Stop in Carson in May 2022.

Chrisie was enrolled in the Bridge to Work and Youth @ Work programs and placed on a Paid Work Experience assignment with employer Better Youth, Inc. Chrisie was eventually hired by Better Youth as a creative professional.

Chrisie continues to work while attending **CSU Long Beach**, where she is taking classes to earn a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Illustration for Pre-Production.



Chrisie Morris
Youth Program

"Everyone needs help with something, and the people at Carson One-Stop and Better Youth are willing to help, but it's your responsibility to speak up for it."

Leo Bustillo - due to the COVID-19 outbreak, Leo experienced despair after losing his car wash business and family. After finishing a detoxification program, he asked for assistance and was informed of the South Bay One-Stop in Carson. Leo attended an employment services orientation, where he talked about his goals and declared himself to be homeless. He was unemployed and had no income for a period of 12 months.

Leo was enrolled in Truck Driver Operator Class A instruction at the **College of Instrument Technology** and graduated with honors. In September 2022, he started working for Centerline Drivers, LLC as a gainful employee, where they are paying him \$28.00 per hour. Leo is now making progress toward his family's reconciliation.



Leo Bustillo
Adult Program



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THE PROBLEMS WE FACE

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- 2 Need to reduce the skills gap and improve the numbers of women, minorities, and veterans gainfully employed in STEM fields

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WHO ARE WE?

AATA is a 501c3 nonprofit that:

- 1. Offers world-class basic and advanced NDT training at an affordable price.
- 2. Connects motivated individuals from disadvantaged groups with dynamic companies seeking well-trained personnel.
- 3. Is based in CA and has 4 locations around Southern CA where students are trained to work around the world.

Our programs recruit, retain, and graduate students, reversing the trend of under-representation, diversifying the STEM workforce, and providing meaningful employment opportunities to women, minorities, and veterans.

Sponsors and Partnerships Needed!

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CARSON

Roger Linares, a 50-year old resident of Carson, enrolled in the **Aero-Flex** Pre-Apprenticeship during the Summer of 2022 while attending **El Camino College**. With some experience as a CNC machine operator and programmer, he hoped the internship program offered by Northrop Grumman and the College's Machine Tool Technology program would help him secure a long-term work position.

During the program, he completed Blueprint for Workplace Success and technical skills training and excelled during his **Northrop Grumman** internship. Upon completion, he was **hired by Northrop Grumman** as an **Aero-Flex** apprentice sponsored by **El Camino College**. He was also enrolled in the On-the-Job training program provided by the SBWIB. Roger is expected to obtain his Associates degree by the end of 2022.



Roger Linares
Aero-Flex Program

EL SEGUNDO

For 22 years **Sara Mejia** was the HR Generalist for El Segundo-based manufacturer Carlisle Interconnect Technologies. Following the announcement of a mass layoff, she worked with South Bay One-Stop Center in Inglewood to coordinate Rapid Response services for hundreds of impacted employees and was also in need of support as an affected employee herself.

Her career counselor helped her develop an individual employment plan and recommended concurrent enrollment with SBWIB partners, 'Families First', to obtain her High School Diploma, and UC Irvine to obtain a Human Resources Management Certification.

Despite the unexpected challenges of the pandemic, Sara successfully completed her Human Resources Management Certification and obtained her High School Diploma, reintegrated into the workforce as a Human Resources Generalist for Pocino Foods Company in City of Industry, with higher wages.



Sara Mejia
Dislocated Worker Program

TOGETHER, WE HAVE THE POWER TO KEEP THE FUTURE BRIGHT

We are proud to sponsor the
South Bay Workforce Investment Board
27th Annual Awards Ceremony



GARDENA

Denise Benitez, a Gardena resident, and single parent needed help gaining secure employment during the pandemic. LA County Department of Public Social Services referred her to the South Bay One-Stop Center in Gardena.



Denise Benitez
TSE Program

After an assessment of her transferable skills, Denise entered into a 10-month Paid Work Experience position under the Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) program as an administrative aide at the One-Stop Center. In June 2022, she was offered a full-time position at the center.

“The TSE program helped me grow in so many ways and helped me get back on my feet. I gained new skills and am still amazed about how much the Gardena One-Stop does for the community.”

Gardena resident **Derrin Atwood**, 21, was interested in pursuing a profession in health sciences. While attending part-time classes at **Compton College**, she turned to the South Bay One-Stop in Gardena for help.



Derrin Atwood
Youth Program

After orientation, Derrin attended the Blueprint for Workplace Success job preparation course. She successfully finished 200 hours of compensated Paid Work Experience at a Gardena partner worksite.

Derrin found employment as an administrative assistant at a nearby funeral home, acquired an interest in the funeral sector, and was promoted to a managerial position. Derrin is enrolled in classes in pathology, anatomy, embalming and restorative procedures, physiology, and funeral law, with the goal of becoming an embalmer.



INTUIT
DOME

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
SOUTH BAY WORKFORCE INVESTMENT
BOARD ON THEIR 27TH ANNUAL
AWARDS CEREMONY

GARDENA

Jesse Gaspar, a 22-year old resident of Gardena, participated in the **Aero-Flex** Pre-Apprenticeship in the Spring and Summer 2022 while attending **El Camino College** and majoring in Mechanical Engineering. During the program, he completed Blueprint for Workplace Success and technical skills training, a Paid Work Experience internship at **OSI Optoelectronics** in Hawthorne funded by the **LA County Department of Economic Opportunity**, and an internship at **Northrop Grumman**. Jesse was also enrolled in the On-the-Job training program provided by the SBWIB.



Jesse Gaspar
Aero-Flex Program

"I would like to thank the South Bay Workforce Investment Board for helping us along the journey, helping us gain experience in interviewing, and keeping in contact with us."

This hands-on work experience helped him broaden his horizons, gain expertise in a highly competitive industry and get **hired by Northrop Grumman as an Aero-Flex apprentice** sponsored by El Camino College.

Rodney Hironymous contacted the South Bay One-Stop in Gardena after his layoff in 2020. Despite his 10-year extensive background in the automotive industry and working for industry giants such as Toyota and Honda, the effects of the pandemic left Rodney with limited options.



Rodney Hironymous
Dislocated Worker Program

"This is permanent employment with all the state benefits. My training proved invaluable in securing the job. I used a final paper I wrote for my class to demonstrate my skills. I received the offer the next day. I truly owe this entirely to the SBWIB."

Working with his career counselor, Rodney decided to pursue a Business Fundamentals Course through I-TRAIN partner **UCLA Extension**. While on track to completing his program, Rodney secured employment with Los Angeles Unified School District as a Contract Administrative Analyst.

Rodney reintegrated into the workforce in an entirely new and pandemic-proof industry and is earning a higher wage than through his previous employment.



Congratulations
to the SBWIB
and all the Awardees!

HAWTHORNE

Danny Avila, a 35-year old Hawthorne resident, participated in the **Aero-Flex** Pre-Apprenticeship during the Summer of 2022 while at **El Camino College**. Danny had prior experience in machining and engineering thanks to his service in the U.S. Military. Aspiring to move into a career in aerospace, he excelled throughout his Pre-Apprenticeship, which included Blueprint for Workplace Success, technical skills training, and internship at **Northrop Grumman**.

Upon completing the program, **Danny** was hired by **Northrop Grumman** as an **Aero-Flex** apprentice sponsored by **El Camino College**, and he was enrolled in the On-the-Job training program provided by the SBWIB. Danny anticipates receiving his Associates degree in Manufacturing by the end of 2022.



Danny Avila
Aero-Flex Program

In February 2022 Hawthorne resident **Ely Coronado**, 19, was a low-income college student living with her parents and had a limited work history. Due to financial constraints and other pandemic-related concerns, she was forced to postpone her college education.

Ely had previously enrolled in youth employment services through the South Bay One-Stop Center in Inglewood while she was in high school so she returned to the Center to gain career pathway services as an Out of School Youth.

Ely was placed into a Paid Work Experience position in a Youth Barista Training Program with Azucanela, a Hawthorne-based small business. She learned foundational workplace and management skills, and gained valuable exposure to the entrepreneurial spirit. At the conclusion of the training, Ely was hired full-time and has since enrolled back in college.



Ely Coronado
Youth Program

Putting Back The Pieces



Before



After

HAWTHORNE

Leslie Moore, a resident of Hawthorne, was sent to the South Bay One-Stop in Inglewood by the Los Angeles County Probation Department under the INVEST program to obtain specialized employment and training services for adult probationers.

During his initial assessment, he indicated a desire to work as a mentor or substance abuse counselor. Without any prior experience or industry recognized credentials, it was determined that he would benefit from a wage-based learning activity. Leslie completed the Blueprint for Workplace Success training, 300 hours of Paid Work Experience, and was offered permanent employment as a program aide with Christ Centered Ministries.

Leslie remains employed and is scheduled to begin occupational skills training this Fall to obtain the required industry certifications to become a substance abuse counselor in the state of California.



Leslie Moore
INVEST Program

“Always remember, if there is a positive alternative available - take it. My advice to others like me is to make it a priority to visit the One-Stop and never limit your options. Thanks again for everything.”

HERMOSA BEACH

Mia Friedman, 24, a resident of Hermosa Beach, was a clerical intern at the **Friendship Foundation**, and sent to the South Bay One-Stop Center in Torrance in May 2021. After obtaining job preparation training, Mia was enrolled in the youth program and qualified for a paid internship as a clerical assistant with the **Friendship Foundation**.

In addition to improving her computer skills, Mia learned how to use the DASH software that the organization relied on to coordinate participant and volunteer involvement in a variety of special events. Because of her success and steady improvement, Mia was hired by the **Friendship Foundation**.

Mia is very grateful for the support she received from the One-Stop Center staff in helping her realize how her strengths and previous experiences can be helpful in a new work environment.



Mia Friedman
Youth Program

Explore the Possibilities and Promise of Tomorrow



We're a proud partner of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board.

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INGLEWOOD

Mar Vista Gardens resident **Angel Montenegro**, 20, a recent high school graduate and low-income youth living in public housing with limited employment history, attended a Community Open House hosted by SBWIB in partnership with the Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles (HACLA).



Angel Montenegro
HACLA Adult Program

In coordination with his career counselor, Angel was sponsored into the Local 300 Labor Union and dispatched to SoFi Stadium as a landscaper within days of his program enrollment. His daily duties at SoFi Stadium included maintaining Inglewood's most prominent project and its meticulous landscaping in preparation for the highly anticipated Super Bowl LVI.

Angel remains employed as a Local 300 Level I apprentice with steady wage increases since his hire date.

"One Stop staff was always very professional and ready to help me. In a very short time I was able to get this job and get my construction career started. I appreciate all the assistance and support received from the One-Stop team."

SOFI STADIUM AND THE LOS ANGELES RAMS

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On its Accomplishments and Celebrate the Honorees at the 27th Annual Awards Ceremony





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INGLEWOOD

Blas Gonzalez, 45, first came to the South Bay One-Stop Center in Inglewood in February 2020, referred by the LA County Probation INVEST program to access specialized employment services that could help him become a licensed plumber. With multiple arrests and convictions in prior years, Blas was in search of an opportunity to make a meaningful reintegration into the workforce.



Blas Gonzalez
INVEST Program

Blas held entry-level plumbing jobs in the past, but faced the near-impossible task of securing employment during a global pandemic. He diligently attended weekly virtual career counseling sessions and virtual job seeker workshops where he gained knowledge in the areas of virtual interviewing and job search strategies during the pandemic. To assist with his rapid reintegration into the workforce, the SBWIB provided him with essential plumbing tools to perform his daily duties.

His job search efforts paid off and he was able to secure employment as a plumbing supervisor with an **hourly wage of \$50 an hour, and is now off probation!**

Peter Palmero, at age 31 was referred to the South Bay One-Stop Center in Inglewood within two weeks of his release from incarceration to access employment and training services for probationers. Unfortunately, Peter had unstable work history and limited skills due to multiple incarcerations over the last 12 years.



Peter Palmero
INVEST Program

His career counselor worked with Peter's probation officer and enrolled him in the **Coastline Community College** Core Competency Construction course. Peter received a \$1,000 stipend from the LA County Probation INVEST program to help him during the four-week program.

Upon completing his training, Peter received a nearly \$1,100 tool kit to increase his chances of gaining employment in the drywall trade. He was soon hired as a drywall installer by Treasure Drywall in Lakewood at a starting wage of \$25 an hour.

"The Inglewood One-Stop Center was extremely helpful in my transformation and reintegration back as a successful member of society."

INGLEWOOD



Saul Martinez
Prison to Employment
Program

I want to thank the Inglewood One-Stop for helping me through this process. I love my job and am truly blessed to have been able to get the help from the Inglewood One-Stop. I appreciate my career counselor's help in getting me where I needed to go to get my career started.

Saul Martinez was referred to the South Bay One-Stop in Inglewood by reentry partner Friends Outside of Los Angeles County, shortly after serving a 20-year sentence and being on parole. He faced many challenges, including living in a transitional housing facility while attempting to join the workforce during a national pandemic. His experience was limited to skills obtained from state prison labor programs and low-paying jobs upon his release.

Saul was enrolled in the Prison to Employment Program and in a Commercial Truck Driving Certificate program with partner training provider **Dolphin Trucking School**.

He met all behind-the-wheel DMV requirements, obtained his Class A Commercial Truck Driving License and was employed in a matter of weeks. He remains employed as a truck driver and has secured permanent housing.

INGLEWOOD

As a high school senior, **Symbol Sims** sought services to explore his potential career pathways. He signed up for a Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) Pre-Apprenticeship Training certificate program. Symbol continued to explore the option to attend college after high school, but affordability was a challenge.

Through the South Bay Workforce Investment Board's partnership, Symbol was connected to the U.S Army ROTC scholarship.

He applied for the scholarship and was awarded a three-year \$30,000 ARMY ROTC scholarship to attend **California State University, Los Angeles**, and pursue a degree in Criminal Justice. This scholarship will help Symbol overcome his financial concerns and allow him to focus on his academics, which will increase his chances of staying in school and graduating on time.



Symbol Sims
Youth Program

American Career College is Proud to Partner with South Bay Workforce Investment Board

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ACC provides career guidance and assistance but cannot guarantee employment.



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LAWNDALE



Catherine Alcantara
TSE Program

Philippines native **Catherine Alcantara** is a resident of Lawndale who was unable to find work during the pandemic, despite having experience in operations and customer service.

The Transitional Subsidized Employment program (TSE) was recommended to Catherine as a resource. Through the program she was quickly **hired by the City of Hawthorne**, a partner worksite, to provide administrative and clerical support. She was given excellent feedback from her manager after completing her subsidized Paid Work Experience assignment. Subsequently, she was offered a full-time unsubsidized position as a housing clerk with the **City of Hawthorne**.

"This program was such a blessing to me and so many others. I am grateful to my career counselor and hope she continues to share her talents to support more people like me who wouldn't be in this position without her assistance."

LAWNDALE



Daniela Ramirez
Bio-Flex Program

Daniela Ramirez, a Lawndale resident, was a senior at Lawndale High School in the **Centinela Valley Union High School District** when she participated in the **Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship** in Spring 2022. During her training, she completed Blueprint for Workplace Success as well as technical skills classes that included medical diagnosis, pharmaceutical development and OSHA regulations.

Daniela also learned from a variety of employers about the many career pathways within the Los Angeles life science ecosystem.

Her training was funded by the **Howmet Foundation**. She is now attending Cal State University in Fullerton, majoring in Kinesiology.

"I really liked the people I worked with. They were very understanding and supportive, and the program was very educational. If you are looking for any new opportunities to widen your knowledge about bioscience jobs, I would recommend Bio-Flex."



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Thank you to the South Bay WIB for supporting our community.



Job Placement Assistance

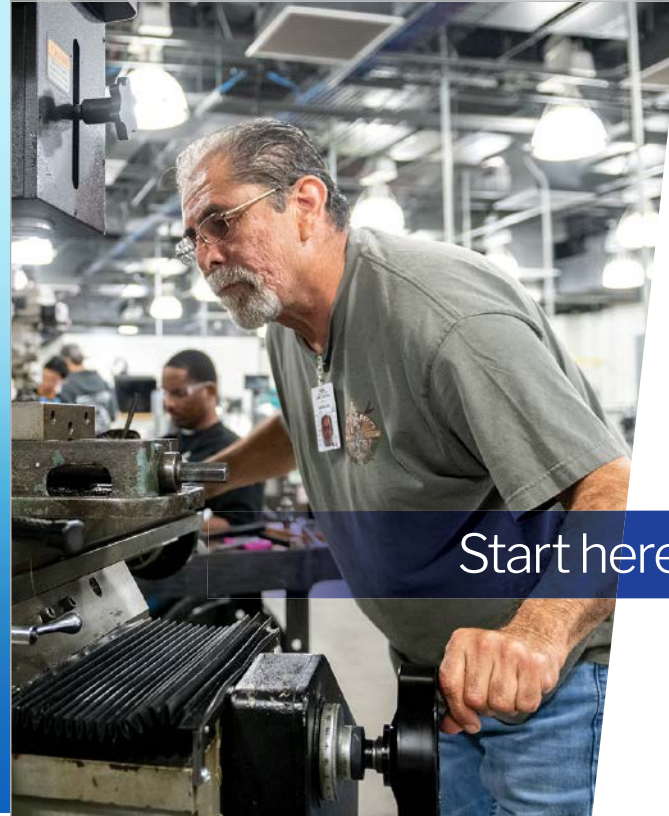


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LOMITA



Jacqueline Iniguez
Youth Program

Jacqueline Iniguez, a Mira Costa High School graduate with no prior employment history, was attending **UCLA** with an interest in Political Science and Public Policy. She was connected to the South Bay One-Stop Center in Gardena and referred to a Work-Based Learning activity to increase her understanding of essential skills needed to secure employment in public service.

In collaboration with Meta (formerly Facebook), Jacqueline was selected as a candidate for the Career Connections Fellowship program, which trains older youth in social media and digital marketing concepts to assist small businesses. Jacqueline completed a five-week industry training program and was placed with the Lomita Chamber of Commerce as a Digital Marketing Fellow.

Upon her training completion, she was **hired by the Lomita Chamber of Commerce** as social media content designer/receptionist. Jacqueline continues to attend **UCLA** and is on track to complete her studies.

MANHATTAN BEACH



Melissa Moore
Dislocated Worker Program

Manhattan Beach resident, **Melissa Moore** was laid off from her teaching job due to low enrollment numbers. Through the Employment Development Department, Melissa learned about the South Bay One-Stop Center.

The One-Stop Center helped Melissa update her resume, retrain in massage therapy, and provided support in her job search. She passed the Massage Board Licensing Examination (MBLEx), became a Certified Massage Therapist, and worked in the industry for three months before COVID struck and was unemployed again.

Melissa reconnected with the One-Stop Center and obtained additional credentials in the healthcare and healing arts field. She is now employed at Athreya Ayurvedic Integrative Health Center.

"I'd have to tell others that there are people who care to see others succeed and are more than willing to assist you through a transitional time. I would also have to tell others about my career counselor, of course, because he was there for me every step along the way."



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REDONDO BEACH



**Nilton Grand
Maison Da Fonseca**
Dislocated Worker
Program

"I would wholeheartedly endorse this service to any person that is searching for an employment opportunity."

Nilton Grand Maison Da Fonseca, a 55-year-old resident of Redondo Beach, had trouble obtaining work after being laid off because he lacked credentials. Nilton heard that **Cal State University Dominguez Hills** offered a construction project management course and that the program's tuition could be paid by workforce funding. This presented a perfect opportunity for him to add the qualifications to his resume and obtain assistance with the job search from the South Bay One-Stop Center in Torrance.

He landed a job performing disaster recovery while he was in training, but the COVID pandemic delayed many projects and he found himself out of work again. His persistence led him to land another job that was full-time and permanent with AJ Khair. Although Nilton was laid off originally, he was re-employed at a similar wage he was earning previously.

REDONDO BEACH



Olga Stepanenko
Dislocated Worker
Program

"Definitely take it into consideration, from resume assistance and interview skills coaching to job opening notifications. I could not have landed my current position without the South Bay One-Stop Center."

Olga Stepanenko, resident of Redondo Beach and college graduate with a background in international journalism and communications, had been on leave from her prior position because of the COVID-19 epidemic. A career advisor from the South Bay One-Stop in Torrance contacted Olga immediately after she filed for unemployment benefits in 2021.

In March 2022, Olga finished the WIOA-funded Online Marketing Certified Associate (OMCA) Social Media certificate program at **LMU Extension**. She acquired new abilities in online social media marketing. Olga obtained a new job after receiving her credentials and began working as the operations manager for an organization that provides event and meeting planning services in August 2022. She was able to increase her wage by 56 percent compared to her previous employment.

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- INGLEWOOD (310) 946-0399
- GARDEN GROVE (657) 206-1055
- LANCASTER (661) 268-6502



NEWOPPS.ORG

REDONDO BEACH



Silvia Danna
Dislocated Workers
Program

“The results from working with the One-Stop Center were overwhelmingly successful. I advise others not to pass up these opportunities and take the time to go through the process. It can redirect your career path and, in some cases, enable you to negotiate a higher salary with your new employer.”

Silvia Danna, a Redondo Beach resident who had been the Director of Visual Merchandising and Retail Marketing for a significant sports shoe and accessories company for 17 years, was laid off in January 2020 due to a departmental workforce restructuring/reduction. She learned about the services offered at the South Bay One-Stop in Torrance while attending her unemployment orientation.

Silvia was paired with a career counselor who assisted her with access to professional guidance. She learned how to write a résumé, and graduated from the acclaimed **UCLA Extension program** with a Marketing and Digital Media Hybrid Certificate in September 2021, qualifying her for interviews she previously didn't receive.

Silvia was hired as the Marketing Manager for New Balance Athletics in January 2022 with a very competitive salary.

TORRANCE



Miguel Rodriguez
Bio-Flex Program

After taking a number of classes at Santa Monica College, **Miguel Rodriguez** was hired by **Bachem Americas** in Torrance to be one of their first apprentices in the SBWIB's **Bio-Flex** Bio-Production Technician Apprenticeship. After a year of hard work and completing additional classes at **West Los Angeles College** and learning on the job, Miguel completed his Bio-Flex apprenticeship in July and received a wage increase and a certificate of completion from the U.S. Department of Labor.

“Working at Bachem has been an awesome experience. I got to collaborate with some intelligent people, learn some remarkable things, and explore what a scientific profession could look like. Completing this apprenticeship has given me the confidence to further pursue my academic career in the field of biochemistry and valuable skills that will most definitely help me advance in this line of work.”

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After taking a number of classes at multiple community colleges, including **El Camino College**, and working at **Sling Pilot Academy** at the Torrance Airport, 25-year old **Shane Wagner** became the company's first apprentice.

He enrolled in the **West Los Angeles College's** Aircraft Structures Mechanic Assembler Apprenticeship in April 2021 and received credit for his prior work experience. He completed his remaining course work and On-the-Job training in March 2022. Upon completion of the **Aero-Flex** apprenticeship, he received a wage increase and certificates of completion from the U.S. Department of Labor and the State of CA Department of Apprenticeship Standards.



Shane Wagner
Aero-Flex Program

“It is a great privilege to receive this Aircraft Structures Mechanic Assembler certification from the Department of Labor and State of CA. I am thoroughly indebted to the skilled technicians, pilots and instructors at Sling Pilot Academy, Rotax Flying and Safety Club, and San Jose State University.”

TORRANCE



Zaida Rodriguez DiRoma
Aero-Flex Program

“When I got my internship at LISI Aerospace, I wasn’t sure what to expect because I had no experience with maintenance or machinery. This was an opportunity for me to discover something new, and I discovered a career path that I initially never thought would be in my plans.”

Zaida Rodriguez had just completed her B.S. in Mechanical Engineering when she joined the **Aero-Flex** Pre-Apprenticeship. Zaida completed Blueprint for Workplace Success, technical skills training in additive manufacturing and quality, and a Paid Work Experience internship at **LISI Aerospace** in Torrance, funded by the **LA County Department of Economic Opportunity**.

LISI offered her a second internship in Maintenance Engineering and then **hired her as a full-time Maintenance Project Engineer**.

“I’m glad to be part of LISI and the Maintenance team. My new role has been a rewarding experience. I’ve learned in-depth machine functionality from our contractors, mechanics and electricians. Overall, I’m grateful that I was given the opportunity to be part of LISI.”



CONNECT WITH US!

TRANSITIONAL SUBSIDIZED EMPLOYMENT




Karen Gutierrez
TSE Program


“I went from being a single mom taking care of a baby and trying to survive to reconciling with my family and no longer needing to live off the system. Thank you SBWIB, DPSS, and the GAIN program, my new life would not be possible without any of you.”

Karen Gutierrez was a stay-at-home mother who separated from her spouse, leaving her to financially scrape by to provide for her son. After multiple unsuccessful interviews and disappointments, Karen turned to assistance from her Department of Public Social Services case worker who referred her to the SBWIB’s Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) program.


The program placed her at a temporary worksite as a front desk representative. Karen completed her worksite hours and with the hard work, training, and encouragement from her case manager, she found full-time employment at Homeless Female Veterans and Veterans with Families as a Job Developer. The program provided Karen with self-sufficiency and she is no longer living paycheck to paycheck.




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SouthBayWIB

BUSINESS STORY

HAWTHORNE



Active Security Solutions began as a small executive protection firm in 1980 in Beverly Hills, California, offering protection to celebrities and dignitaries. President Patricia Donaldson is recognized as operating the first woman-owned security firm in the State of California. The business relocated in 2002 to the City of Hawthorne and began working with numerous corporations, landing major projects, and training other entities in the security business.



Transitional Subsidized Employment (TSE) Solutions continues to achieve its hiring needs.

Patricia Donaldson was quoted, “One of the best decisions that I have made in my business was to be in partnership with the SBWIB. I will always utilize their services because they saved me a lot of money in advertisement and through the On-The-Job Training program in hiring local job seekers.” Active Security Solutions has hired over fifty participants and will continue using SBWIB services.



An increased need of security guards, and the positive reputation of the One-Stop Center, led Active Security Solutions to contact the South Bay One-Stop Center. Using the reimbursement incentives from the Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) and the program, Active Security

BUSINESS STORY

INGLEWOOD



AECOM is serving as the lead designer of Intuit Dome, the future home of the LA Clippers. The iconic new arena and event venue is designed for optimal engagement of the community and fans. It will embrace enhanced environmental performance through an indoor-outdoor approach that will provide a naturally ventilated entrance and upper concourse, and a solar-optimized building shell to balance natural light and solar heat gain. Intuit Dome will also feature a multi-purpose plaza, which includes a concert stage, community basketball courts and gathering space. It is scheduled to open for the 2024-25 National Basketball Association season.



The South Bay Workforce Investment Board through its Inglewood One-Stop AJCC and its partnership with PDA Consulting, Inc. supplies a pipeline of qualified construction candidates through the Construction Utilities Pathway Program (CUPP). Over 200 local individuals have been hired into construction apprenticeship

jobs. The AECOM Turner JV Team has partnered with the South Bay One-Stop Center’s Youth program to provide tours of the Intuit Dome Construction site, attend several virtual job fairs, provide safety equipment for the Inglewood Unified Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) training, and provide classroom guest speakers to our partner school districts.



BUSINESS STORY

TORRANCE



Aura Seating is a designer and manufacturer of Yoga-based ergonomic seating and office products. The company is registered as a Minority Woman Owned Small Business Enterprise and is located in Torrance. **Sanjay Murty and Minal Mondkar** have been active supporters of the SBWIB for many years. Sanjay is a SBWIB Board Member and serves on the Business and Technology Committee as well as the SBWIB's Apprenticeship Advisory Committee. The company has partnered with the SBWIB to create a new apprenticeship occupation called, "Aircraft Interior Design and

Upholstery Assembler" and will be hiring apprentices into this role. They also participate in the SBWIB Employment Training Panel (ETP) training program and hire individuals with barriers to employment, including the unhoused, youth, and justice-involved individuals. The company encourages youth to explore apprenticeships and learn about manufacturing careers.



"SBWIB is a great partner to local businesses who are looking to train and develop individuals in our community. Aura Seating has greatly benefited from our relationship and we look forward to offering these opportunities to our future associates."

BUSINESS STORY

INGLEWOOD



The South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) and **Los Angeles World Airports (LAWA)** have been in partnership for decades and worked on many hiring initiatives throughout those years. Recently the SBWIB through its Inglewood One-Stop has partnered to provide Paid Work Experience participants through its Transitional Subsidized Employment and GROW programming from the Greater Avenues for Independence (GAIN) through the Department of Public and Social Services contract.

Before the pandemic, the SBWIB's One-Stops referred close to 100 participants who completed their Paid Work Experience assignment through the iCARE program, and many were hired permanently at LAX. The LAX iCARE Crew is deployed as needed to provide guest assistance to (1) minimize impacts during construction by helping guests navigate around construction; (2) assist with large special events that result in additional airport guests; and (3) supplement staff during emergencies and irregular operations, helping with crowd control and other informational needs.



Through its diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives, LAWA will be training and supervising 25 iCARE crew members with disabilities through an agreement with SBWIB and funding from DOR, throughout LAX with hopes of permanent quality jobs that follow completion of their 400 Paid Work Experience hours.

BUSINESS STORY

REDONDO BEACH



Northrop Grumman Corporation is a major manufacturer specializing in defense and commercial aerospace, electronics, and information-technology products and services. They design, develop, build and support some of the world's most advanced products, from cutting-edge aircraft, next-generation spacecraft, unrivaled cyber security systems and all-seeing radars.



The South Bay Workforce Investment Board partners with Northrop Grumman's Redondo Beach facility to provide workforce development services, including job placement and apprenticeship support. Northrop Grumman has attended several of the SBWIB's One-Stop virtual hiring events, including the Job Fair for transitioning military personnel at Los Angeles Air Force Base, and recently sat on an employer panel at the California Workforce Association's conference in Monterey.



Additionally, in partnership with **El Camino College and West Los Angeles College**, Northrop Grumman participates in a career pathway pipeline for machining and electromagnetic technician pre-apprentices that results in a Department of Labor registered apprenticeship program. Eighteen individuals who completed training have been selected for hire through Northrop Grumman. Through Aero-Flex and Workforce Innovation Opportunities

Act (WIOA) funding, the SBWIB reimburses Northrop Grumman a portion of the apprentices' wages as on-the-job training. These apprentices include workers dislocated due to COVID-19, veterans, long-term unemployed individuals, and youth participants. These individuals are employed at \$27.00 an hour with promotional opportunities within the company.

BUSINESS STORY



Republic Services, Inc., incorporated in 1996, is the second largest provider of services in the domestic non-hazardous solid waste industry. Through its subsidiaries, Republic strives to provide reliable non-hazardous solid waste and recycling services safely and sustainably for commercial, industrial, municipal and residential customers.



For several years, Republic Services has partnered on several hiring initiatives and serves on the Board of Directors for the SBWIB. Several years ago, Republic Services partnered with the SBWIB's Youth Services Department to shore up teenagers looking to enter the workplace. This partnership provided hands-on

training in the specific area of advance manufacturing welding.



Republic Services has utilized the many recruitment and business services from the South Bay One-Stop Center in Gardena to build its candidate pool. The One-Stop pre-screens many candidates for Republic's available positions and has held recruitments to meet their hiring needs.



In September, the SBWIB and One-Stop Center held their first in-person Republic Services recruitment and hiring event since the pandemic. fifty job seekers attended and 14 received second interviews on the spot, resulting in multiple jobs offers with several candidates starting soon.

BUSINESS STORY

ROBERTSON'S READY MIX



For more than 50 years, **Robertson's Ready Mix** has provided services to the concrete goods business. Robertson's is the major producer of ready-mix concrete and building aggregates throughout Southern California and into the Nevada regions.



Finding candidates that fit the bill and have expressed interest in working as Ready Mix drivers was difficult for the organization to acquire. They were contacted by a South Bay One-Stop Center in Gardena job developer, who provided them with no-cost employment services. Following assistance from the One-Stop Center, the business held two live in-person hiring events that drew a sizable number of eligible, interested candidates. Since then, more than 20 employment offers with conditions have been made, many of whom are beginning right away.



BUSINESS STORY



As the nation's largest natural gas distribution utility, **SoCalGas** delivers increasingly clean, safe and reliable energy to 21.8 million consumers through 5.9 million meters in more than 500 communities.

Its service territory encompasses approximately 24,000 square miles in diverse terrain throughout Central and Southern

California, from Visalia to the Mexican border. As part of its sustainable business practices, SoCalGas creates an inclusive and equitable workplace that fosters a safe and innovative culture where everyone is respected, feels a genuine sense of belonging, and is positioned for high performance.



SoCalGas serves on the SBWIB Board of Directors and in 2021, agreed to partner with the SBWIB to provide work-based learning support for SoCalGas's diversity, equity and inclusion hiring initiatives to help them find qualified applicants from the South Bay area and prepare them for opportunities with SoCalGas. During



the past program year, the South Bay One-Stop Center in Gardena has recruited over 500 interested applicants, 40 of whom completed test preparation activities and career pathway counseling. Four individuals completed the hiring process and are awaiting a start date. Many more are expected to be hired within the next few months.

BUSINESS STORY

TORRANCE



The Airplane Factory and the Slings Pilot Academy located at the Torrance Airport, have been participating in the SBWIB programs to train and upskill their employees, including hosting pre-apprentices and apprentices. They are also participating in the SBWIB Employment Training Panel (ETP) program and using On-the-job training grants to upskill 13 of their mechanics.

The Slings Pilot Academy is providing vital comprehensive training for pilots seeking a variety of certifications, ranging from private pilots to commercial licenses, helping to address the ongoing nationwide shortage of commercial pilots. The Airplane Factory, which employs 35 people, is the exclusive North American distributor of the Slings line of aircraft products that are sold throughout the nation and are also available as home-built airplane kits.



The primary Slings Aircraft production line is headquartered in South Africa, which manufactures the parts that are shipped to Torrance for final assembly. The Airplane Factory has operated at the Torrance Airport for 14 years.

PARTNER STORY

CENTINELA VALLEY UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT



For many years, the SBWIB and Centinela Valley Union High School District (CVUHSD) have worked closely together to offer work-based learning opportunities to their academy and pathway students. The SBWIB has provided students with activities such as internships, guest speakers, advisory board members, worksite visits and pre-apprenticeship programs such as Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex.

Inspired by the many successful student outcomes over the years, CVUHSD's Superintendent, Dr. Stephen Nellman, proposed an innovative idea to have the SBWIB staff co-located on-campus at each of the district's four high schools to provide career services and job coaching that would be available to every student in the district.



The initiative was an overwhelming success over the course of the past school year, leading to over 3,200 engagements between the SBWIB staff and CVUHSD students. This includes 1,438 one-on-one individualized career coaching sessions, 87 career readiness workshops, connections to over 100 local employers and 76 students placed in internship and pre-apprenticeship programs.

PARTNER STORY



El Camino College has been a long-time partner of the SBWIB in developing strong career pathways to local employers. The college was a founding member of the Aero-Flex and Bio-Flex Apprenticeship and Pre-Apprenticeship and has partnered with the SBWIB on a number of grants, including the DOL Scaling Apprenticeship Grant with West Los Angeles College and two recent grants



from the CA Community Colleges Chancellor's Office grants for Bio-Flex and to develop IT-Flex.



El Camino College has partnered with the SBWIB to enroll students each year into the Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship to complete an eight-week internship with Northrop Grumman, after which most are hired and participate in the SBWIB's On-

the-Job training program.

The SBWIB has provided an onsite representative at El Camino College twice a week to provide job readiness services and host at least two job fairs during the semester. Last year, the SBWIB provided 450 one-on-one sessions with El Camino students, conducted 11 workshops, hosted 2 large hiring events, provided 219 job leads, and assisted 27 students in securing employment or internships.



PARTNER STORY

LOMITA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



The Lomita Chamber of Commerce in cooperation with the City of Lomita and the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB), is championing an innovative and resilient recovery program to accelerate economic growth for



business owners and their employees, thanks to the acquisition of stimulus funds received by Lomita from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) of 2021. The Act provides opportunities to support economic development activities, capital improvement projects and other initiatives.

The program provides no-cost enhanced services to business, including training options along with employee wage subsidy programs and other forms of assistance. The chamber and the SBWIB are reaching out to the entire business community to assess



their needs and provide information on services and resources. The partnership



also promotes the city's new facade improvement program, which is also funded by the ARPA grant. Additionally, the chamber helps to promote the SBWIB's services by sharing printed and social media news with its membership and community partners.

PARTNER STORY

LOS ANGELES AIR FORCE BASE



Since 2016, the SBWIB has provided in-person employment services and enhanced transition assistance at the **Los Angeles Air Force Base (LAAFB)** in El Segundo for military personnel and their family members as they leave active duty and seek new careers in civilian life. Workforce services continue even after the veteran has separated from the service and are also available for spouses of separating military, which includes spouses of active duty and newly-assigned personnel. A renewed Memorandum of Understanding signed earlier this year continues the support for three more years.



This partnership has resulted in quarterly on-campus job fairs exclusively for Air Force personnel at LAAFB and connecting applicants to employers such as Northrop Grumman, Raytheon, The Aerospace Corp, and Cedar Sinai Hospital to name a few. Additionally, the SBWIB staff has assisted hundreds of transitioning service members to achieve greater prosperity and



quality of life for themselves and their families as they make the transition out of the military. The community benefits from the retention of a highly-skilled and professional workforce in the Los Angeles South Bay region, which is important for business retention, expansion and economic growth.



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PARTNER STORY

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Through her role as the **Arts, Media and Entertainment (AME)** Sector Specialist with the **California Department of Education**, Allison Frenzel has been instrumental in spearheading a statewide effort to increase diversity and representation within the entertainment industry through improved education and training opportunities. She created the Entertainment Equity Alliance, a coalition of dozens of employers, labor, educators, and community organizations, which has utilized direct industry and employer



input to create and register over a dozen apprenticeship programs in the creative arts.



She has also helped secure commitments to address equity in employment from some of the biggest names in the film, video game and other creative industries such as Warner Brothers, Disney, Netflix and Live Nation. Working in partnership with the

SBWIB, funding has now been secured to place over 500 individuals from barrierred and underrepresented populations into apprenticeship, employment and career pathways within the industry. Together, we continue to pursue the resources needed to achieve the goal of increasing diversity and representation by 15% within the entertainment industry over the next five years.



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- HED100: Truck Driver Operator Class "A"

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Hacienda La Puente Adult Education

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Thank you to all of our partners, local, state, national, academic and funding partners, the business community and other friends of the South Bay Workforce Investment Board.

Thank you for your continued support and help to make a difference in the lives of so many; and a special thank you to all the SBWIB staff for their help and support throughout the year.

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