



PRESS RELEASE

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

**Third Class Graduates South Bay Workforce Investment Board
Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship Program**

HAWTHORNE – Twenty-one southland area high school students graduated from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship (BFPA) Program March 3rd. The BFPA program provides a career pathway into the growing bioscience field and provides an opportunity to experience what it would be like to have a career in the bioscience industry.

Participants at the virtual graduation included parents, teachers, Bio Science industry volunteer mentors, educators and civic leaders. SBWIB Executive Director Jan Vogel was joined by Lawndale Mayor Robert Pullen-Miles in congratulating the students.

Mr. Vogel honored the graduates for taking the initiative to open the door to opportunities that await them in the bioscience industry by completing the Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship. He also thanked the Bioscience industry partners who provided the employer led training experience for the students.

“Despite the distractions and limitations you faced during this past year, you have positioned yourselves for success,” Mayor Pullen-Miles told the graduates. “We expect to hear a lot more exciting success stories about you in the future,” he concluded.

In response to an initial request last Fall from the Centinela Valley Union High School District (CVUHSD) that sought enhanced programming for its BioMed Academy and a special request from former L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas, the SBWIB reached out to other local area districts and high schools in lower income and underserved communities to recruit additional applicants to join in the Bio-Flex pathway program. Science departments were encouraged to promote the opportunity to their students.

As a result, 10 Lawndale High School students from CVUHSD were joined by students from Inglewood City Honors Charter, California Academy of Math and Science at CSU Dominguez Hills, King Drew High School, Long Beach Jordan High School and North Torrance High School to complete the three-track BFPA, which included work readiness training, occupational



skills training and on the job training. An additional student from Da Vinci Communications Academy in the Wiseburn School District was honored for completing the SBWIB's Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship.

Funding for the Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship program was provided by former L.A. County Supervisor Mark Ridley Thomas and the California Workforce Development Board Workforce Accelerator Fund 7.0. Funding for the Aero-Flex program, in part, was provided by a grant from the Howmet/Arconic Aerospace Foundation.

Both the Bio-Flex and Aero-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship programs were developed as employer driven apprenticeship models to meet the workforce development needs common to industry partners, while providing a framework to allow each employer to design or flex their own program. Employers are able to tailor the curriculum to meet their individual training needs around a specific occupation or department. For more information please visit www.sbwib.org/bioflex or www.sbwib.org/aero-flex or call (310) 970-7700.

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Photo caption: Twenty-one southland area high school students graduated from the South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Bio-Flex Pre-Apprenticeship (BFP) Program March 3rd. The BFP program provides a career pathway into the growing bioscience field.