



PRESS RELEASE

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SBWIB Awards Ceremony Recently Held Featuring Success Stories and L-3 Communications Electron Technologies, Inc., Confirmation to Remain in Torrance – 400 Jobs Saved

TORRANCE – The 21st Annual South Bay Workforce Investment Board (SBWIB) Alumni Awards Ceremony attracted more than 400 civic leaders, employers, training providers and graduates of job and career training programs. The event, held at the Torrance Marriott, celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of the workforce investment community during the past year. Chief Executive Officer, Centinela Valley Hospital Medical Center, Linda Bradley, was presented with the SBWIB's highest award, the Esther Williams Award of Excellence.

One highlight in particular came from Glenn Grindstaff of L-3 Communications Electron Technologies, Inc., who confirmed the efforts of the SBWIB and its partners in finding cost saving solutions for the company, helped L-3 to keep its doors open in Torrance, which ultimately saved 400 local jobs. Grindstaff also announced that L-3 now plans to hire an additional 200 people at the Torrance location in the coming year.

Among those in attendance were keynote speaker, United States Air Force Colonel, Charles P. Roberts, United States Congresswoman Maxine Waters, California State Senators Ben Allen – 26th District, Isadore Hall III – 35th District and Mike Gipson - 64th District, California Assembly members Autumn Burke – 62nd District and David Hadley – 66th District, Torrance Mayor Patrick Furey, Carson Mayor Albert Robles, Hawthorne Mayor Alex Vargas, Inglewood Mayor James T. Butts, Lawndale Mayor Robert Pullin-Miles, Lomita Mayor Jim Gazeley, and a host of other civic leaders and elected officials.

Jan Vogel, SBWIB Executive Director and Wayne Spencer, SBWIB Board of Directors Chairman, served as co-masters of ceremonies. Mr. Vogel presented an award of recognition to Mitchell Lansdell, Gardena City Manager, for his more than 30 years of serving Gardena. Next, Mr. Spencer presented individual awards to graduates who had successfully gained employment after completing career and vocational training through the SBWIB One-Stop Business & Career Centers.

The award recipients from the SBWIB's 11-city coverage area were: **(Carson)** Virginia Owens, **(El Segundo)** David Behrendt Jr., Terance Dennis, **(Gardena)** LaWanda Staten, **(Hawthorne)** Kimberly Rodriguez, Alejandra Roman, Leonard Velez, **(Hermosa Beach)** Marie Bayro, **(Inglewood)** Christina Curnal, Keion Millsaps, Manuel Romero, **(Lawndale)** Karla P. Barba-Mora, **(Lomita)** Sogigie Sherfa, **(Manhattan Beach)** Bryan Duran, **(Redondo Beach)** Deidre Gustavson, **(Torrance)** Misty Torres, Cierra Washington (profiles can be viewed at www.SBWIB.org/2016-individual-success-stories).

Mr. Vogel read a brief summary of the individual success stories that came about despite personal barriers, severe obstacles, and the economic downturn. Two standout alumni said a few words.

Hawthorne's Kimberly Rodriguez, winner of the 2016 Gates Millenium Scholarship, which will pay her



tuition to the University of California, Berkeley (and beyond), lauded Mr. Vogel and the SBWIB for the services and guidance they provide local youth. Inglewood's Keion Millsaps, a post 9/11 Navy Veteran who at one point was homeless after his separation from service, commended the SBWIB's commitment to assisting Veterans. Millsaps, who works for Lifton Institute of Media Arts and Sciences, now actively recruits other veterans to the school's digital program at SBWIB job fairs.

Mr. Vogel then recognized eight outstanding employers and organizations that collectively hired dozens of participants over the year. They included: **(El Segundo)** Los Angeles Air Force Base, **(Gardena)** Magnetika, **(Hawthorne)** Home Depot, **(Inglewood)** Postal Plus Business Center, **(Lawndale)** M3-Services, Inc., **(Lomita)** Lomita Chamber of Commerce, **(Torrance)** L-3 Electron Technologies Inc. and Smart & Final.



Linda Bradley, Chief Executive Officer, Centinela Valley Hospital Medical Center and James T. Butts, Jr., Mayor of Inglewood



Wayne Spencer, SBWIB Chairman and Kimberly Rodriguez of Hawthorne, 2016 Gates Millennium Scholarship winner



Wayne Spencer, SBWIB Chairman, Chief, Cathy J. Howard, Airman & Family Readiness, Charles P. Roberts, United States Air Force Colonel, Los Angeles Air Force Base



Glenn Grindstaff, Vice President, Human Resources & Administration, L-3 Communications Electron Technologies, Inc.