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**Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County recruiting for
fourth Aircraft Mechanic Training Class at
SCLA School of Aviation Technology**

In-demand aviation occupations provide stable employment and competitive wages

Victorville, Calif. (May 15, 2009) – The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County is recruiting county residents for its aviation technician training program at the Southern California Logistics Airport School of Aviation Technology in Victorville. Three classes are currently underway, and a fourth class will begin after 25 qualified students are recruited.

The program will train county residents to be licensed aviation technicians, who are authorized to handle the technical maintenance, overhaul and repair work on commercial aircraft. Starting salaries for these positions are approximately \$40,000, and experienced technicians can earn \$100,000 per year or more.

“FAA-certified aviation mechanics can work anywhere in the world, collect a good starting wage, and even work up to a six-figure salary,” said Jim Worsham, business development contact for the Southern California Logistics Airport. “These positions are ideal for laid-off workers, veterans and youth who seek the opportunity to start a new rewarding career.”

Students can earn a Powerplant (aircraft engine) Certification in less than a year, or 50 weeks. Powerplant certification requires completion of two courses. The first course is an 18-week General Aviation course consisting of 450 hours of classroom and practical instruction. The second course, Powerplant, is a 32-week course which includes 800 hours of classroom and practical instruction on aircraft engines.

After Powerplant Certification is completed students will need Airframe Certification to become licensed Airframe & Powerplant technicians. The Airframe Certification Program is in development now and should be in place by March, 2010. This program will be comprised of an additional 32-week, 800 hours of classroom and practical instruction on both the interior and exterior body of an aircraft (the Airframe).

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SCLA recruitment

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Once the courses above are completed, students will be equipped to take the required FAA tests. After passing, students will become Federal Aviation Administration Certified A&P Technicians.

“The Workforce Investment Board has identified aviation as one of the five largest employment sectors in the county,” said Sandy Harmsen, executive director of the Workforce Investment Board. “Despite the increasing unemployment rate, this industry continues to need trained and skilled workers.”

Nationwide and locally, the average A&P mechanic is near retirement age. Because of this trend, there is an estimated annual need for 200 new A&P mechanics for the companies located just at the Southern California Logistics Airport.

“The Workforce Investment Board is funding this A&P training program and recruiting qualified applicants as part of our mission to help residents find good jobs locally and build careers in the county,” said John Gibson, chairman of the Workforce Investment Board.

A high school diploma is required for entry into the program. Hand-eye coordination, good communication skills and a sound mathematical education is recommended.

The training takes place at the Southern California Logistics Airport’s School of Aviation Technology located at 18368 Readiness, Building 717B, in Victorville, Calif.

This program was made possible through funding provided by San Bernardino County Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt, the Workforce Investment Board and the City of Victorville.

Funding for students interested in this training is available through the Workforce Investment Board. For more information about training enrollment and financial support contact one of the county’s three Employment Resource Centers.

- Hesperia: 760-949-8526
- Rancho Cucamonga: 909-941-6500
- San Bernardino: 909-386-0884

About the Southern California Logistics Airport

The Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) is an 8,500-acre world-class aviation and air cargo facility servicing domestic and international needs. The SCLA School of Aviation Technology was launched to build a trained and skilled workforce for the businesses located at the airport. The school is located at 18374 West Phantom in Victorville. For more information visit www.logisticsairport.com.

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About the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board

The San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the County Board of Supervisors. It strives to create a strong, vibrant economy by developing the county's workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations.

Through the County's Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, the Workforce Investment Board operates the county's Employment Resource Centers, which provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life. It also operates the county's Business Resource Centers, which provide services and support to the county's businesses including employee recruitment.

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