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Next Phase Classes for Aviation Mechanics at SCLA to Begin

Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County approves \$95,000 for equipment to provide students state-of-the-art training.

VICTORVILLE, Calif. (Oct. 2, 2009) – The latest opportunity to receive training for a career in aviation maintenance begins soon at the School of Aviation Technology at Southern California Logistics Airport (SCLA) in Victorville, which trains aircraft mechanics for jobs that are in demand in San Bernardino County and worldwide.

“We are working to bring as many quality jobs and careers as possible to our High Desert economy, which will secure long-term economic health,” said First District Supervisor Brad Mitzelfelt. “I look forward to seeing our residents take advantage of this and other training opportunities.”

The County’s Workforce Investment Board recently approved \$95,000 for equipment that will provide the students with state-of-the-art training. Supervisor Mitzelfelt provided \$500,000 as part of an earlier County contribution of \$750,000 to get the school started. Its first class began in March.

Space is available now for the highly anticipated Powerplant Certification Program, which will begin this month. This 50-week vocational program operates at SCLA and is certified by the Federal Aviation Administration. It is the only program at a “working” international airport in the United States. Several classes are proceeding through the airframes phase at the school.

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.

Tuition for the program is \$3,950, with a monthly payment plan available. Prospective students must be 18 years of age, be able to read, write, speak and understand English, and possess a high school diploma or GED. Hand-eye coordination, good communication skills and a sound mathematical education is recommended.

“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.”

For more information, contact Melinda Weiss at (760) 243-1904.

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About the Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County

The Workforce Investment Board of San Bernardino County 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.

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

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