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## NEWS RELEASE

### Workforce Development Board

For Immediate Release

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## WDB, InTech upskill CSI employees to become welders

At the InTech Center in Fontana, a cohort of 12 California Steel Industry workers is being retrained in a skillset critical to the company's future.

The 640 hours of advanced welding training, supported by the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB), is about more than the hands-on experience and certification participants receive.

"What we've got here is a model for upskilling workers while helping companies retain valued employees – a win-win that strengthens our labor pool and helps to build an even stronger economy," said Curt Hagman, Chairman of the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. "Innovative workforce and business-development programs such as this have made our county a recognized leader in attracting new businesses and helping existing ones grow."

The relationship between San Bernardino County and Intech goes back several years. WDB has been a funding and support partner since shortly after Chaffey College and California Steel formally created the center in a building on the CSI grounds in 2014 to provide in-demand technical training and professional development for businesses and industries within the county.

The newly launched welding program was designed specifically for current CSI workers to meet a critical need within the company.

"We recognized years ago that the availability of skilled craftsman was running short, not only here but everywhere. By taking people who have been with the company and know the operations and how the equipment works, we're not only benefitting CSI's operations, but upgrading their skills and increasing their earning power," said Scott Starr, Executive Vice President of Operations for California Steel.

Ten-year CSI employee Jesus Veloz appreciates the opportunity.

"For the company and the county to invest in giving us a skill that's needed worldwide is amazing, and makes employees feel really good about themselves and the people we work for," Veloz said.

Said Moises Torres, who has worked at CSI for the past seven years, "It's a great opportunity for me to become a competent welder, sharpen my skills and be a bigger asset to the company."



Welding, in fact, has become one of the most popular offerings at InTech – so much so that Assemblyman Freddie Rodriguez, D-Pomona, recently announced a \$2.9 million state allocation to put toward the construction of a new classroom and laboratory for welder training.

“Here in San Bernardino County, our manufacturers play such an important role in building and making what America consumes, and jobs like this are essential to making that happen,” said Phil Cothran, WDB Chairman. “The incumbent training program not only helps meet the demand for these critical positions, but highlights the resourceful and innovative steps companies are taking to improve the lives of their workers.”

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### **About the San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board**

The San Bernardino County Workforce Development Board (WDB) is comprised of private business representatives and public partners appointed by the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors. The WDB strives to strengthen the skills of the County’s workforce through partnerships with business, education and community-based organizations. The San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors is committed to providing county resources, which generate jobs and investment in line with the [Countywide Vision](#).

The Workforce Development Board, through the San Bernardino County Economic Development Agency and Workforce Development Department, offers a variety of programs designed to help youth and adults identify career pathways and get the appropriate training and skills. Programs funded through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) provide eligible youth, ages 16 to 24, access to a variety of career and educational services designed to help enhance job skills, develop leadership qualities, explore career options, participate in adult and peer mentoring opportunities, and take advantage of work experiences. In addition, the WDB operates San Bernardino County’s three America’s Job Centers of California (AJCC). The AJCCs provide individuals with job training, placement and the tools to strengthen their skills to achieve a higher quality of life. The AJCCs also support and provide services to the County’s businesses, including employee recruitment and business retention programs.

Employers and job seekers who are interested in the Workforce Development Board programs may call: (800) 451-JOBS or visit [www.sbcounty.gov/workforce](http://www.sbcounty.gov/workforce). Also follow us on: Facebook [www.facebook.com/SBCountyWDB](https://www.facebook.com/SBCountyWDB); Twitter [@InlandEmpireJob](https://twitter.com/InlandEmpireJob); LinkedIn <https://www.linkedin.com/company/sanbernardinocountywdb>; and YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/SBCountyWIB>.