

Women in Advanced Manufacturing

By Marc Baum, Oak Crest Institute of Science | Photos by Paul Webster



Oak Crest, in collaboration with the South Bay Workforce Investment Board's (SBWIB) BioFlex program, has hosted a successful series of student pre-apprenticeships under the title "Women in Advanced Manufacturing." In 2023, eight students participated in the program where

they acquired essential laboratory skills and networked with industry professionals.

The program at Oak Crest goes beyond traditional classrooms by prioritizing practical laboratory skills crucial for success in the manufacturing sector. With the guidance of experienced mentors, students gain hands-on experience with state-of-the-art technologies, enabling them to develop necessary technical skills and a comprehensive understanding of advanced manufacturing.

During their participation, the students had the opportunity to engage with a diverse range of professionals, including engineers, entrepreneurs, and hiring experts. These interactions



served as a catalyst for inspiration, fueling their imaginations and igniting their passion for pursuing careers in STEM fields.

To enhance their experiential learning, the students embarked on visits to local technology companies where they compared different work sites and interacted with employees. These visits provided valuable insights into various aspects of the manufacturing industry and equipped them with knowledge of industry expectations and demands.



The student group visits the Monrovia indoor plant growth facilities of Velocigro.



The student group at Huntington Gardens.

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Oak Crest Institute of Science (Oak Crest) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established to teach and conduct cutting-edge science research. The institute provides an experience-giving role in education, where students work on authentic, funded research projects and develop a sense of belonging to the STEM community.



Additionally, the students had a unique opportunity to visit the Huntington Gardens in San Marino, where they were granted permission to collect soil samples. They brought these samples back to the laboratory for microbiological and chemical analysis, putting into practice the skills they acquired during their time at Oak Crest.

The collaboration between Oak Crest and SBWIB's BioFlex program has proven transformative for these young women, offering them hands-on training,

mentorship, and invaluable industry connections. Armed with the necessary tools to excel in any professional environment, the program empowers students to thrive in their future careers.

Oak Crest remains dedicated to the empowerment of students and their preparedness for the workforce. Initiatives like the BioFlex "Women in Advanced Manufacturing" program drive positive change, fostering the growth and success of aspiring women in the field of advanced manufacturing.



Jessica Uribe prepares reagents for biochemical tests.

