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Bus company in Ontario hires dozens through San Bernardino County agency [Inland Valley Daily Bulletin, Calif. ::]

July 05--A bus manufacturing company with a facility in Ontario has received help finding dozens of new employees through the San Bernardino County Workforce Investment Board.

New Flyer of America, Inc., based in Winnipeg, Canada, opened a new manufacturing facility in Ontario last year. The Workforce Investment Board, or WIB, which helps unemployed residents find work, directed 41 new employees to work at the manufacturer in the past year.

"The quality of employees that the Workforce Investment Board has referred to us in the past was fantastic. It was an extremely successful partnership and I'm delighted we will be working together again to find eight new employees," said Janice Harper, New Flyer's Vice President of Human Resources.

New Flyer of America, Inc., operates two manufacturing plants in Minnesota. The company opened a facility in Ontario in 2013 after winning a contract with Los Angeles Metro to build more than 550 buses.

Recruiters at the WIB screened 122 candidates and conducted tests before referring job candidates to the company. Harper said the hiring team traveled to California for interviews.

"It helped significantly with recruiting qualified staff and took all the hard work out of the equation for us," Harper said.

The company is continuing to work with the WIB for recruiting and helping fill positions.

"It's a great thing for us to be able to provide these services, not only to our local residents,

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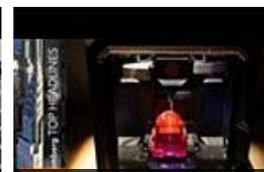
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especially those who haven't been working in a while or are looking for better jobs, and so for jobs like these in our area, in manufacturing, for an international company to have their facility in our county creates jobs and helps the economy," said Miguel McQueen, deputy director of business services for the WIB.

New Flyer's Ontario plant is where the company puts final touches on buses manufactured in Minnesota. Ontario workers install seating, flooring, and carry out final tests for water tightness and road safety.

"More companies are making the county of San Bernardino their home and we are proud to assist businesses like New Flyer of America, Inc. to settle in and expand by providing services such as no-cost recruitment and training," said Sandy Harmsen, executive director for the Workforce Investment Board.

The new hires through the WIB consisted of a plant manager, maintenance technicians, team leaders, acceptance and delivery specialists, a manufacturing engineer, administrative staff, and quality assurance specialists.

In the past year, the WIB facilitated 75 recruitments, served 2,874 businesses, and identified 12,086 job opportunities for the unemployed.

"This is an incredible achievement that supports economic growth in San Bernardino County," said San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors Chairwoman Janice Rutherford.

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