

# In Greater L.A., Building a Workforce for the Future Is Job Number One

High-tech industries that are powering the region's economic growth—and increasing the demand for workers with 21st-century skills—count on public-private partnerships to ensure there's ample supply.

**WHEN A WILDFIRE SWEEPED THE BEL AIR** neighborhood of Los Angeles last December, the L.A. Fire Department deployed drones for the first time, to survey the burn area and assess hot spots. It joined an increasing number of public and commercial entities that have embraced unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and propelled over \$1 billion of investments in the industry.

You could say drones are on fire.

They're just one component of the high-tech growth engine that is transforming the economy of Greater L.A. Advanced transportation, manufacturing, and biosciences are increasingly vital to the region—and so are the skills needed to meet their demands. That's why government and private enterprise are working together to make sure the workforce is prepared.

The Tesla Foundation, for example, partnering with agencies including L.A.'s Economic and Workforce Development Department (EWDD), provides funding for drone pilot training courses at the city's Boyle Heights Tech YouthSource Center. After graduating, students get paid internships and take aerial flight instructor exams to obtain their commercial licenses. Another project, the Biotech Bridge Training Academy at Los Angeles Valley College, creates a manufacturing technician pipeline at the community college level. "Our job training pro-

grams are very well-aligned with the needs of these emerging industries," says Jan Perry, EWDD's general manager.

One of the industries on EWDD's radar is biosciences (or biotech), which is rapidly expanding its role in the area's economic development, attracting almost \$1 billion in federal investments in 2016, according to industry organization Biocom. Though existing in the shadow of Silicon Valley until recently, biosciences have long thrived in Southern California.

Amgen, the world's largest independent biotechnology firm, with a presence in approximately 100 countries, was founded 38 years ago in Ventura County's Thousand Oaks, north of L.A.—making it one of the first bioscience companies in the region. It is now one of the region's largest employers, with more than 5,000 people working at its headquarters.

The biotechnology pioneer attracts a top-tier workforce due to its cutting-edge research and next-generation biotechnology manufacturing processes. Amgen employees enjoy an exceptional slate of benefits, including a generous paid-time-off

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program and, via its corporate foundation, matching donations to charities of each employee's choice.

"Amgen's mission to use science and innovation to serve patients with serious illnesses, like cancer and cardiovascular disease, is what drives us and attracts top talent," says Anis Baig, global head of talent acquisition.

Part of that mission extends to the Amgen Foundation, the primary philanthropic vehicle for the company, established in 1991 "to advance excellence in science education and support our communities," says Bernard Bedon, Amgen's vice president of human resources. "The foundation supports compelling hands-on and virtual opportunities in biology and biotechnology through several national and international programs." Some of them partner with local institutions and organizations to reach thousands of high school and undergraduate students in the L.A. area. "These programs help us build the workforce of tomorrow," says Bedon, "and improve the lives of as many people as we can." ●

**More than 20,000 Amgen employees come to work every day—in Ventura County and around the world—in the pursuit of new medicines to treat patients suffering from serious illnesses. The company's commitment to making a difference includes programs to inspire the next generation of scientists, including thousands of high school students in the L.A. area.**

***At Amgen, our mission is to serve patients, it drives all that we do.***

Working at Amgen is rewarding for that very reason. Whether you're working to develop innovative treatments or improve drug delivery systems, you'll make a positive difference in the world.

Come be rewarded for the work you do and help make a meaningful difference for patients. Every single day.

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