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**South L.A. County Employers Acknowledged for Providing Job Opportunities
to Goodwill Participants With Barriers to Employment**

Long Beach, CA—November 9, 2015—About 120 people representing companies throughout Southern Los Angeles County joined together at an Employer Appreciation Luncheon on Thursday organized by Goodwill, Serving the People of Southern Los Angeles County (SOLAC). Held at the scenic Hotel Maya in downtown Long Beach, the annual luncheon was held to thank employers for providing job opportunities to Goodwill SOLAC's participants with barriers to employment.

Assemblyman Mike Gipson, who served as the event's keynote speaker, praised Goodwill SOLAC for its work in providing job training and placement for the unemployed, underemployed and working poor. "I'm encouraged by the work Goodwill does day in and day out because truly you are a drum major for justice," said Assemblyman Gipson. "Truly you are changing people's lives."

Two Goodwill SOLAC participants also spoke during the event to share how the organization helped them get back on their feet after falling on hard times. Salvador Medina expressed how grateful he is to Goodwill for helping him find steady employment after spending several years struggling to find work since getting laid off from his longtime technical job. Jeannette Chism revealed that she battled with alcoholism before enrolling in the Culinary Arts Program at Long Beach City College, where Goodwill offers employment services that helped her establish a career in the food service industry.

Some of the employers represented at the event were: 24 Hr. Home Care, Alamos Belmont Rehabilitation Hospital, Broadway By The Sea, Cambrian Homecare, Christina's Uniforms Co., Edgewater Skilled Nursing Center, HSG Inc., Living Well Home Care, Rite Aid, Savor SMG, and Securitas USA.

Goodwill SOLAC is a nonprofit organization that transforms donated goods into job training, education and placement services for individuals with barriers to employment. Goodwill SOLAC serves 22 cities and communities throughout Southern Los Angeles County. Goodwill SOLAC's main facility—located at 800 W. Pacific Coast Highway in Long Beach—houses its administrative offices, training programs, processing operations, transportation fleet, LiNKs Sign Language & Interpreting Services, a retail store and its e-commerce operations. For more information about Goodwill SOLAC, please visit www.ThinkGood.org.

Photo Caption:

(From left): Assemblyman Mike Gipson is shown presenting a Certificate of Recognition to Ben Espitia, Director of Workforce Development for Goodwill SOLAC.

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