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WICHITA FALLS BIG SUCCESS FOR TEXAS FIRST

Nearly 700 people from a four state area turned out to apply for more than 600 job openings at the Wichita Falls Job Matching Fair June 11.

Approximately 200 people were lined up outside the D. L. Ligon Coliseum as early as 8:30 a.m. and the line continued to grow after the doors opened at 9 a.m.

Nearly 60 businesses and industries, offering a wide variety of jobs for both skilled and unskilled workers, were represented at the day-long event. Openings included everything from production line workers to bank vice presidents.

Several employers said that they had hired people on the spot. Others indicated that they had found many very good prospects. However, complete figures will not be available for several weeks.

"It's too early to know how many people were hired," Russell Crawford of the Wichita Falls Texas Employment Commission explained. "All of the employers were very enthusiastic and pleased with the quality of the applicants."

Employers sat at booths around the circumference of the Coliseum floor interviewing applicants who had already been screened by the TEC workers. Many companies said they were very impressed with the number of applicants they were able to interview over such a short period of time.

PPG Industries had interviewed 150 applicants by noon. Levi Strauss talked with 22 people before 11:30 a.m. and said that they were very pleased with the applicants and intended to hire many.

An advertising campaign conducted by the Wichita Falls Board of Commerce and Industry brought responses from job-seekers as far away as California and Massachusetts. Applicants who actually traveled to the fair came from all parts of Texas as well as Oklahoma, Kansas, Ohio and Tennessee.

The Wichita Falls Fair was sponsored locally by the BCI, TEC, City Department of Human Resources and Texas Association of Business.

Homer Tucker of the Texas Industrial Commission said that city officials were very pleased with the results of the fair and many have already expressed a desire to hold another one there soon.

