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GOVERNOR'S JOB MATCHING CAMPAIGN

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### JOB FAIR RESULTS BETTER AND BETTER

"The results are still rolling in," Jim Harwell, executive director of the Texas Industrial Commission, said of the TEXAS FIRST Job Matching Fairs. "I've never seen anything like it."

The one-day fairs held earlier in Amarillo, Midland/Odessa and San Angelo were all a tremendous success, according to Harwell. "And the success keeps growing as jobs continue to be filled with unemployed Texans," he said.

The Texas Employment Commission has determined that approximately 1,480 people have found jobs as a direct result of Governor Dolph Briscoe's TEXAS FIRST Job Matching program. The total number of people helped by the program is probably much higher. "There is no way of knowing exactly how many people have found jobs through TEXAS FIRST," Brooks Carroll of the Amarillo TEC said. "Many more jobs have probably been filled that didn't come through our statistics."

The initial job matching fair in Amarillo last December was an overwhelming success with 900 employers participating. More than 1,200 people turned out to apply for 1,262 jobs. "Two hundred and fifty people were hired on the spot," according to Carroll. An additional 300 people were offered jobs beginning in January as a result of the fair and that figure rose to more than 335 through March and April.

"We expect another 300 to 350 people to be hired by Brown and Root construction soon," he said. Over 200 families, one from as far away as Guam, have moved to the Amarillo area to begin their new jobs.

Equally successful was the Midland/Odessa fair in March where 1,500 people came to apply for the 900 openings with 185 hired that day. Since then, that figure has risen to 514. "These are not the final figures. We continue to get in new statistics as more and more people are hired," Ed Miller of the Midland TEC explained.

In San Angelo, the most recent fair, nearly 700 people turned out in pouring rain to apply for 400 area jobs. "The response to the fair by area employers was very good and we hope to be able to hold another fair here soon," said Skip Garen of the San Angelo TEC.

Job matching fairs are part of phase two of the TEXAS FIRST program started in 1975 by Governor Briscoe to overcome recessionary trends. Phase one of the program was the Job Creation Campaign with the identification of some 38,000 available jobs. Approximately 36,000 of these jobs have been filled through TEXAS FIRST.

Phase two has proven every bit as successful as Phase one, and the statistics continue to rise.

## CONSTRUCTION FORECAST SHOWS TF SUCCESS

"We couldn't ask for a better testimonial to the success of the TEXAS FIRST program," TIC Executive Director Jim Harwell said of McGraw-Hill's annual construction forecast.

Nearly \$2.5 billion is predicted to be spent for construction of manufacturing facilities in Texas during the next three years. "That is far more construction dollars than has been outlined for any other state and over four times more spending on new plants in Texas than announced in the previous year," he said.

"With the cooperation of other state agencies and local prime sponsors of Manpower programs we were able to convince manufacturers that Texas was ripe for branch plant locations and expansions," Harwell explained.

If the construction forecast holds true, more than 62,000 jobs will be created in Texas within three years. "When you take into account that our original goal was to generate 4,000 jobs, you can't help but be impressed," he said.

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## JMF FOR WICHITA FALLS

Wichita Falls will be the site of the next TEXAS FIRST Job Matching Fair.

The final go-ahead was given after a series of meetings between local and governmental leaders revealed a significant number of jobs are available with Wichita Falls employers.

The fair is scheduled for June 11 at the D. L. Ligon Coliseum on the campus of Midwestern University.

Initial responses show all kinds of jobs will be available for interested Texans, including both non-skilled and highly skilled positions. Examples of the early responses include bank vice presidents and production line workers.

Local sponsors of the fair are the Board of Commerce and Industry, Texas Employment Commission, Texas Association of Business and Department of Human Resources.

As of May 18, 300 jobs had been identified from nearly 25 industries. These figures are expected to rise dramatically by the day of the fair.

An advertising campaign, designed to reach people in several different states, is expected to bring in many job-seekers who are willing to relocate to the Wichita Falls area.