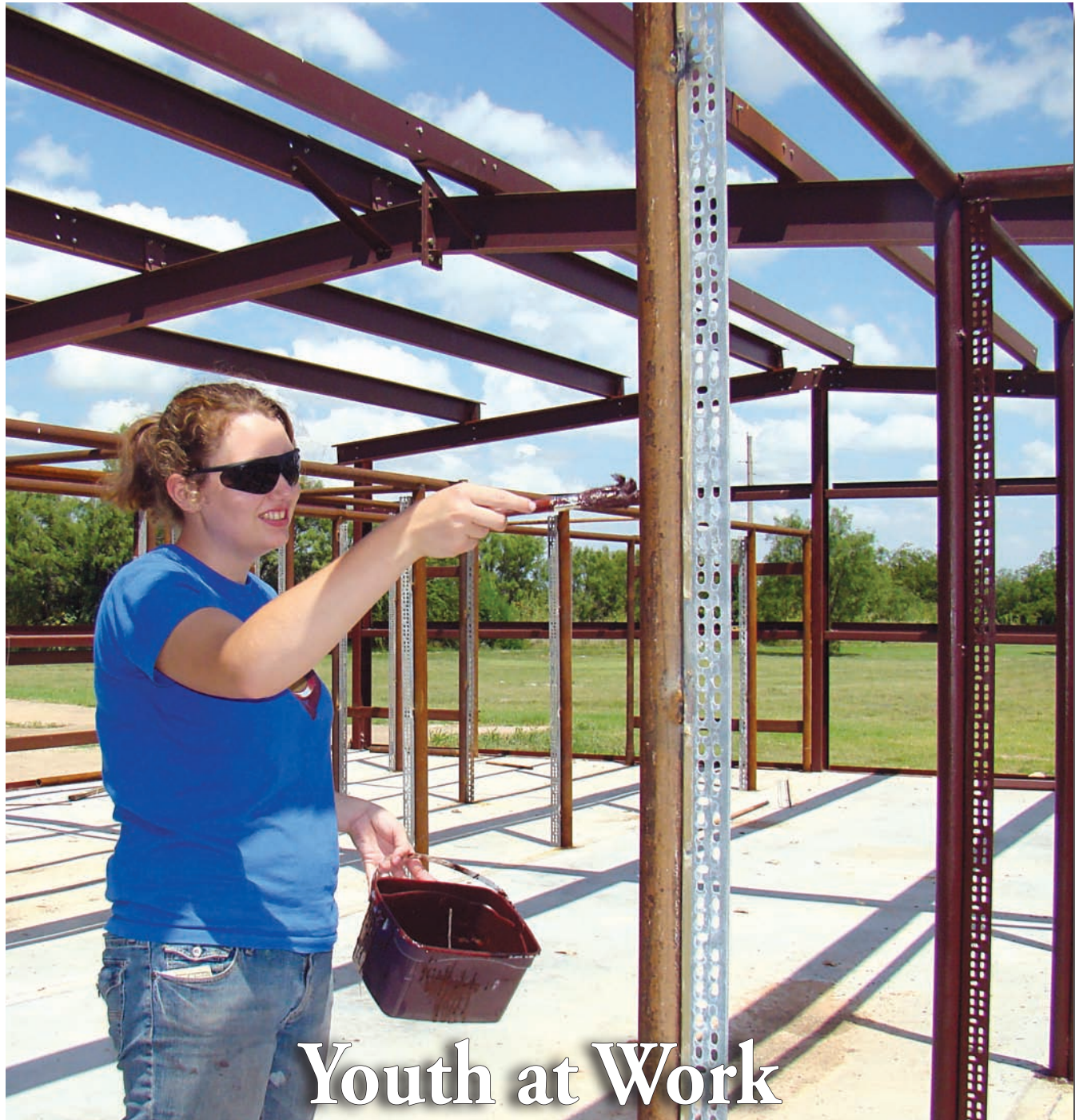


# SOLUTIONS

Fall 2010

Vol. 7, No. 4



## Youth at Work

Young adults gain experience for work and life with summer employment program

## Inside

- 3 | **Training program fills need for lineworkers in electric utility industry**
- 4 | **2010 Texas Workforce Solutions conference to highlight area employers**
- 5 | **STEWARDSHIP Symposium focuses on economic growth in Central Texas**
- 6 | **Youth earn money, skills in summer employment program**
- 8 | **Grant fuels training for high-skilled workers in southeast Texas**
- 9 | **Capital Area program helps workers facing employment barriers**
- 10 | **Workforce News Around the State**

**On the cover:** Through the Workforce Solutions West Central Texas Subsidized Summer Youth Employment Program, 19-year old Ashley Darnell spent a second summer working for the city of Tye. Part of her responsibilities included helping to construct the city's new animal shelter. *Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions West Central Texas*

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## Up Front

**Tom Pauken**  
*TWC Chairman*

In July, the unemployment rate for Americans between the ages of 16 and 24 reached 18.6 percent – nearly double the jobless rate of the general population and just one point below last April's record high of 19.6 percent.

While these figures are disturbing, what is more troubling is the rising number of college graduates who choose to move back to their parents' homes after graduating from traditional four-year universities. CollegeGrad.com indicated this may have been as high as 80 percent of graduates last summer.

As chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission, these statistics are of great concern to me. High jobless and underemployment rates can be particularly damaging to a young person's career and social development. We are currently fighting a battle against structural unemployment, which occurs when current worker skills fail to keep up with labor market demands. While over the decades the U.S. has shifted from a production to service-oriented economy, human resources have shifted away from the technical trades and into non-producing service jobs that generally pay far less. Now, these service jobs are far more prone to layoffs as the economy tries to correct itself and restore the balance between the loss in manufacturing jobs and excess service jobs.

The current downturn will eventually pass, but as we move to restore labor imbalances it is vital to our overall economic health that the next generation has the necessary training and skills to compete globally.

Recognizing this, Texas has committed resources toward developing a workforce trained and knowledgeable in the most recent industry developments. Last year, more than 45,000 Texans received skills training in programs provided by the TWC and our partners in the 28 local workforce boards. We awarded generous grants to partnerships between educators and industry leaders whose cooperation gives a more accurate view of future workforce demands. Quite simply, these allocations are helping put Texans back to work.

Under the prudent and skillful guidance of our governor and state legislature, Texas shines and stands out as the best place in the country to do business. It is now in a key position to help restore the United States as the strongest economy in the world again – and put America back to work. ■

# New lineworker training program powers efforts to fill industry need

By Debbie Pitts

Worker shortage?

It is hard to imagine this situation could exist in the current economic climate, but that is exactly what the electric utility industry in Central Texas is facing due to the need for utility lineworkers skilled in emerging technology and an aging labor force.

Officials from Austin Energy brought the looming shortage to the attention of the officials at Workforce Solutions Capital Area who, along with Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area and Austin Community College (ACC), surveyed 15 regional utility companies. All confirmed the shortage was industry-wide in the Central Texas region.

“We must have people in the pipeline who are prepared to replace those who are leaving the workforce,” said Bob DiFonzo, a district manager with Pedernales Electric Utility. “The industry is changing quickly. The systems of today are more sophisticated, robust, and better engineered, and well-trained, skilled lineworkers are a necessity.”

A collaboration among the two boards, ACC, and seven regional utility companies resulted in the region’s first-ever lineworker training program which launched at ACC in January with a recruitment event. Classes began on August 23rd.

“It is interesting how parallel the need for training is with the increase in technology. As this happens, the need for these types of programs increases,” said James Satterwhite, executive director of Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area. “We applaud ACC for working with the two workforce areas to identify training needs that will help



Pedernales Electric’s Cody Jennings demonstrates pole climbing techniques for prospective students at the Utility Lineworker Expo held at the new lineworker training facility at ACC’s Riverside Campus. An advisory board of seven utility companies developed the curriculum for the certification and associate degree programs, the first-ever lineworker training opportunity in Central Texas. *Photo by Joe Anna Haydon*

both those looking for jobs and employers with workforce needs. This partnership has made us all a lot stronger.”

Utility lineworkers can earn

“We must have people in the pipeline who are prepared to replace those who are leaving the workforce.”

**Bob DiFonzo**  
Pedernales Electric Utility

up to \$50,000 annually, excluding overtime, within four or five years. The ACC program will enable students to earn a Utility Lineworker Associate of Applied Science degree in five semesters, or a Utility Lineworker Certification in just three semesters.

Representatives from many local employers, along with prospective students and other officials participated in a Lineworker Expo event at ACC’s Riverside campus, where the ribbon was cut on the new ACC training facility. The facility and equipment for training were funded through a \$105,000 grant from the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts. The training program was funded using an \$87,210 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy in addition to more than \$10,000 in contributions from employers on the advisory board.

Eric Villanueva of Kyle attended the expo to learn more about the training program.

“I actually have a degree and work in a different field, but I am looking for a high-demand job that can offer more job security,” Villanueva said. “I am definitely interested and I plan to look into it further and see how it goes.” ■

# TWC announces finalists for 2010 Texas Workforce Solutions Employer of the Year

By James A. Johnson

The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will recognize the top five finalists and announce the winner of the 2010 Texas Workforce Solutions Employer of the Year Award at the 14th Annual Texas Workforce Conference to be held November 17-19 at the Hyatt Regency Dallas at Reunion.

The Employer of the Year Award recognizes a private-sector employer for contributions to their community's workforce through innovation and collaboration and a partnership with Texas Workforce Solutions. More than 30 nominees were selected by Local Workforce Development Boards statewide for the award.

The 2010 Finalists are Basic Energy Services Inc., CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System, Dow Chemical Co., National Oilwell Varco, and Presidium Inc.

"Much of the state's successful business-friendly climate results from effective public-private partnerships with our state workforce system," said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken.

All nominees support the Texas workforce system's goal of ensuring that employers and workers have the resources and skills they need to remain competitive. Finalists have proven especially successful in tackling industry and workforce challenges, and promoting skills-driven work environments.

"These employers have done a tremendous job in fostering a strong workforce," Pauken said. "Their contributions demonstrate a standard that all employers can follow."

### Employer of the Year Finalists:

**Basic Energy Services Inc.**, *nominated by Workforce Solutions Permian Basin* – The company partnered with the local board to develop a Shared Work Plan to combat staff reductions during an oil and gas industry downturn and to address industry growth by recruiting skilled workers. Basic Energy also teamed up with Permian Basin to conduct workshops to help human resources professionals earn professional certifications.

**CHRISTUS St. Michael Health System**, *nominated by Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas* – CHRISTUS St. Michael developed an in-house certified nursing assistant program, and was named among the Top 50 Best Places to Work in Health Care. CHRISTUS St. Michael provides teaching assistants to area colleges and donated \$75,000 to Texas A&M University-Texarkana to assist with the funding of a Master's Nursing Program educator.

**The Dow Chemical Company**, *nominated by Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast* – The company is building biofuel and styrene plants creating hundreds of jobs. Dow and the Brazoria County Petrochemical Council have collaborated with Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast on several area workforce development and community improvement efforts. Dow has contributed millions of dollars to construct a new business and industry training facility, child development center, and academic center in Lake Jackson, and provides student scholarships.

**National Oilwell Varco**, *nominated by Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast* – The company partnered with Lone Star Corporate College to create certification programs in Field Service Technology and Integrated Manufacturing, and secured a Skills Development Fund grant that will provide training for more than 1,400 new or incumbent workers. Varco's collaboration with Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast and Lone Star College System creates a skilled workforce tailored to meet the area's specific needs for oil and gas-related professionals whose training exceeds industry standards.

**Presidium, Inc.**, *nominated by Workforce Solutions of Central Texas* – Presidium Inc., a call center in Killeen that provides information services for national community colleges and universities, opened a new 50,000 square-foot facility that will employ at least 500 job seekers. Solicited to choose Killeen for its new site by Workforce Solutions of Central Texas (Central Texas), the Killeen Chamber of Commerce, Central Texas College, and other economic development entities, Presidium's decision to locate in Killeen was particularly welcomed, because at least 600 individuals had lost jobs in recent closures of two other local call centers. Presidium already has hired 200 former unemployment insurance claimants and is participating in the *Texas Back to Work* program.

# STEWARD Symposium focuses on community partnerships

By Joe Anna Haydon

Efforts to promote economic growth of one Central Texas region included an important event this past spring.

The STEWARD (Solutions To Encourage Widespread Action for Regional Development) Symposium focused on the Manufacturing and Technologies Industry Cluster, including the need for education in technical areas.

“There is a misconception that we no longer manufacture products in the United States, when we actually have a significant and growing manufacturing industry here in Texas,” said Ron Sanders, Texas State Technical College (TSTC) vice president of instruction and symposium panelist. “This event created an opportunity for many in the area to meet new people and build important partnerships. If we don’t talk to each other and start these conversations, nothing will happen.”

The STEWARD initiative provides area communities with opportunities to learn about strategies and resources that will aid in local development projects. Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas (Heart of Texas) hosted the symposium to create strong industry and community relationships while addressing workforce issues and promoting valuable resources to local businesses.

The symposium brought together the area’s prominent employers, educators, and economic development professionals including keynote speaker Texas Secretary of State Hope Andrade.

“I know that today you have been and will continue to discuss new opportunities for business, industry, and community leaders to work together to positively impact the economic vitality of this region,” said Andrade. “Forming partnerships to support both the workforce and employers will keep Texas a place where innovation thrives



Bosque County Judge Cole Word spoke to area employers, educators, and economic development professionals at the STEWARD Symposium held at the Lee Lockwood Texas Scottish Rite Library & Museum. Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas.

and entrepreneurs can come, invest their money, take a risk, have access to people with the appropriate skill sets, and succeed.”

Networking was an important part of the symposium, according to Rich Froeschle, Labor Market and Career Information director for the Texas Workforce Commission.

“Heart of Texas does a great job of reaching out to get the community engaged,” said Froeschle. “The Board raised visibility of what it does in its role in building a stronger community.” Froeschle spoke on economic trends, job opportunities within manufacturing, and skills needs.

“The strength of the event was that Board leaders directed the gathering with a solid understanding of the labor market base,” he added. “That is key to enhancing industry production and growth.” ■



Texas State Technical College student Dustin Smith is machining a part using a HAAS Toolroom Lathe. Photo courtesy Texas State Technical College.



Jerry Martinez learns auto mechanic skills through his employment at Red River Tire in Bonham, Texas. Martinez wants to enhance his mechanic skills in college. *Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions Texoma*

# Working hard for the money

## Summer youth employment program teaches valuable skills

*By Kate Hourin*

This summer, in a time when jobs for youth may be harder to find, nearly 21,000 young Texans were able to secure employment through summer youth programs at many of the Texas Workforce Solutions 28 workforce boards.

The city of Tye, in West Central Texas board area, invited 19-year Ashley Darnell back for a second summer after the excellent job she did last year laying water lines for a city animal shelter, said Jerry Perkins, Tye's director of services.

"Ashley is respectful and hardworking and does everything we ask her to do, oftentimes in 100-degree heat," said Perkins, who read water meters with Ashley one morning. "We are able to teach young people job skills while, at the same time, getting free labor out of the deal."

Ashley is an Art major at Hardin-Simmons University in Abilene.

"Even when I am mowing I can create patterns in the grass to make the job interesting," she said. "My grandmother is proud of me working and making money."

Participants in the summer youth employment program were between the ages of 16 and 24, from lower-income families, foster youth, and young adults with disabilities and earned minimum wage for a 30-hour a week job that lasted eight weeks. Youth accepted into the program were matched with jobs after completing a questionnaire about their interests and goals. The positions offered ranged from clerical, health care, and

## Youth Focus



Randy Thomas cuts a piece of glass for a picture frame at Pace Glass in Texarkana, Texas. Randy learned the skills needed to become a glass technician through his participation in the Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas Summer Youth Employment program. He learned how to replace glass in windshields, picture frames, and windows. He enjoyed the work and the atmosphere at the business and hopes it will turn into a full-time job. *Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas*

child care duties to light industrial and construction jobs.

“Visiting worksites has shown me that youth are learning valuable skills that they would not have been able to obtain if it were not for programs such as this,” said Garolyn Jergins, summer youth contract manager at Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas (West Central Texas). “Employers want experience, but when a young person is looking for his or her first job they can get stuck in a frustrating cycle of not having opportunities and experience to develop these much needed skills.”

In Bonham, in the Texoma workforce board area, Jerry Martinez acquired work experience as a car mechanic at Red River Tire.

“I want to go to college to be a mechanic,” he said. “Every little bit of training helps.”

“He’s doing real well. Jerry is catching on real fast,” said employer Chad Burnett.

Youth employed through these programs were fortunate. Teen employment in Texas has been reduced by 6.9 percent as a result of the federal

minimum wage increase in July 2009, the first drop since 1997, according to an Economic Policies Institute report. The decline amounts to 26,900 jobs lost in Texas for people ages 16 to 19. This decrease also is partly due to older displaced workers taking jobs normally filled by teens.

The summer youth programs were funded through a variety of sources. More than \$70 million in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Emergency Contingency Funds was used to place 20,909 youth in (through July 2010) subsidized summer youth employment program with a goal of serving 25,721 through September 30, 2010. This is in addition to the 22,964 youth in employment programs statewide

during summer of 2009. The program funds paid the youth wages and the employers provided the job opportunities.

At the Housing Authority of the City of El Paso (HACEP), 17 youth worked in the finance, communications, inspections, community services, public housing, and housing choice voucher departments.

“The Summer Youth Employment Program is beneficial for everyone involved,” said Gerald Cichon, chief executive officer of HACEP. “Our young assistants are helping the HACEP staff complete tasks more expeditiously while introducing them to some of the exciting employment opportunities that may help them choose a future career path.”

West Central Texas’ Jergins said she was impressed with the youth participating in the program, especially their work ethic, respect for others, and desire to learn.

“I am thankful for employers that took the chance on these youth and provided them opportunities to learn about themselves and what it means to be a professional in the workplace,” she said. ■



The Housing Authority of the City of El Paso was one of 590 employers to participate in Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande’s Summer Youth Employment Program. Of the more than 4,000 young adults who participated in the summer youth program in Upper Rio Grande, 17 youths gained valuable work experience and earned a paycheck from the housing authority. *Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande*

# Grant helps southeast Texas residents train for tech jobs

By Shannon Thomas

A \$1 million American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 grant is opening doors to well-paying jobs for dozens of low-income and unemployed southeast Texas residents.

Distributed by the Houston-Galveston Area Council, the grant provides tuition-free technical training and support services for eligible participants. Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast provided staff from its workforce centers to help determine participant eligibility for the grant.

“This has been a wonderful opportunity for us to serve our community and to be a resource for training and educating our local workforce,” said Joy Weiner, grant coordinator. Weiner helps facilitate the grant through the Alvin Community College Continuing Education Workforce Development Department (ACC-CEWD).

The grant funds education in high-skill disciplines, including training in industrial electrician technology, truck driving, nursing and medical assistance, welding, and licensed vocational nursing.

Along with ACC-CEWD, Texas State Technical College (TSTC), the San Jacinto College District, the Adult Reading Center in Pearland, and the Pearland Economics Development Corporation collaborated to make the grant possible.

“There’s a tremendous need for this type of grant,” said Dr. Sarah Jones, vice president for Continuing and Professional Development for the San Jacinto College District. “And the best way to go is through a collaborative effort just as we’re doing here.”

For George Williams Jr., the



Jason Washburn (right to left), of Alvin, and Juan Zamora, of Pearland, work on a project during a Texas State Technical College Industrial Electrical Technician class at the Alvin Community College Pearland Center in February. Washburn was screened and selected by Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast to receive free training through a grant designed to help get southeast Texas residents into higher paying technical jobs. *Photo courtesy Alvin Community College*

training has led to a number of new job opportunities.

“Even with 16 years working experience, I have been unemployed since March 2009,” Williams said. “Now that I have finished the program, I have received five job offers. I do not have any doubt about gaining employment very soon.”

Williams said he’s since had a second interview with a company for a maintenance technician position and is optimistic about getting an employment offer.

Once the last of the 15 total training sessions is completed this fall, Weiner says the program will focus more on helping participants land jobs.

“At the beginning of the grant allocation, the focus was to get students in the classes; now it is to

help them gain employment,” Weiner said. “We plan on doing a lot of outreach to employers, sponsoring job fairs and working with temporary agencies for placement. Also, everyone leaves this training program with a professional résumé.”

Weiner said officials are hoping for further funding to expand and continue the programs.

“Our partnerships and collaborations in the community have been the best, and the benefits will be seen for years to come,” she said. “The Houston area is only beginning to see the passion, drive, and commitment these grant partnerships have formed. We all share a great interest in increasing employment opportunities for a skilled workforce.” ■



# Capital Area program puts people with barriers on fast track to employment

By James A. Johnson

Finding a job during difficult economic times is daunting enough without facing additional challenges such as having a criminal record or financial hardships.

With that in mind, Workforce Solutions Capital Area (Capital Area), Travis County, and area training providers are helping individuals become self-sufficient through their Rapid Employment Model (REM). REM provides occupational skills, pre-employment training, and job-matching assistance to more than 100 individuals annually. Supported in part through funding from Travis County, REM has provided vocational training to nearly 500 program participants since 2006.

REM includes individuals eligible for Project RIO (Re-integration of Offenders), the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Choices program, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

A five-week truck driver training course provided at Austin Community College through REM enabled Project RIO participant, 51-year-old David Goff, to secure a steady job following nine years in prison.

Goff rode his bike 12 miles to an interview with Travis County. Impressed by Goff's efforts, the Travis County recruiter quickly hired him. Completing the training enabled Goff to meet the county's requirement that he possess a Commercial Driver's License. Grounds maintenance, truck driving, and small engine repair are among his many job responsibilities.

"At first, I didn't think I'd find work or have a chance to succeed," Goff said. "Training opened doors for me, and helped me get my self-esteem back."

Eighty percent of REM participants are in Project RIO, a Texas Workforce Commission program designed to reduce recidivism through employment.

"REM helps people with disadvantages find work and reduces the number of individuals that must rely on public assistance," said Weston Sythoff, Capital Area's communications coordinator. "It promotes self-sufficiency, and provides employers with skilled, qualified, and motivated candidates."

The program's success is reflected by its 81 percent training completion rate. Two-hundred eighty-six REM participants have been placed in jobs with average earnings of \$9.67 an hour.

REM provided relief for Etta Dove, a 54-year-old Project RIO client with HVAC certification who spent 10 weeks



David Goff earned his Commercial Driver's License after completing a truck driving course through the Workforce Solutions Capital Area's Rapid Employment Model. Earning the license helped the ex-offender meet Travis County's employment requirements before a recruiter recognized his efforts to become self-sufficient and hired him to drive a truck and do grounds maintenance.

Photo by James A. Johnson

unable to find work after a two-year incarceration. She enrolled in a five-week electrical training program provided by Construction Gateway, and now earns \$10 an hour with BIT Construction Services Inc. (BIT) in Austin.

"Finding work was hard," Dove said. "The REM program helped me when most employers wouldn't give me a chance, and it gave me an advantage because of the knowledge I got from training."

BIT owner Britanie Olvera praised Dove's poise and work ethic and what she contributes to the company.

"Employees like Etta, who prove you can overcome past misfortunes and contribute to productivity, should inspire employers," Olvera said. "REM opens doors for people who want to turn something negative into a positive." ■

## Workforce News Around the State

### *Regional collaboration produces successful South Plains job fair*

The South Plains Job Fair, sponsored by Workforce Solutions South Plains, South Plains College, Texas Tech University Career Services, Lubbockonline.com, and



Lubbock Economic Development Alliance, recently attracted more than 1,800 job seekers and 75 employers looking to fill hiring needs in education, health care, telecommunications, finance, real estate, hospitality, manufacturing, and technical services.

Held at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center, nearly 700 job seekers visited the six-hour fair in the first hour.

The biannual event allows employers to discuss their industry's in-demand skill sets with prospects, meet with potential applicants, accept applications, and conduct or schedule interviews.

### *Program helps dislocated high-level execs search for work*

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas has placed more than 300 dislocated high-level executives after participants completed executive career transition training.

Funded with \$1 million in federal stimulus dollars administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, the Momentum! training program involved an initial one-day boot camp that helped unemployed executives prepare and search for jobs in the competitive environment. There, participants learned to assess their abilities and organized résumés and other work documentation. Participants also attended 10 weekly meetings to discuss their progress, share job



Lubbock Chamber of Commerce ambassadors look on as Workforce Solutions South Plains CEO Martin Aguirre (left) cuts the ribbon to kick off the job fair event in Lubbock. Also pictured holding the ribbon are job fair committee chairperson Sam Harper (center) and Lubbock Mayor Tom Martin (right). Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions South Plains

leads, and receive feedback and moral support.

Participants have found executive-level jobs at companies such as AT&T, Bank of America, and Texas Instruments.

### *East Texas utilizes federal funds for local layoffs*

Workforce Solutions East Texas (East Texas) is using a \$2.5 million National Emergency Grant awarded to Texas Workforce Commission by the U.S. Department of Labor to provide training and re-employment assistance to 200 area workers laid off between August and December 2009.

East Texas is using the funds to assist dislocated manufacturing, agricultural manufacturing, and communication industry workers by providing re-employment services, skills assessments, basic skills training, individual career counseling, and occupational skills training. The board applied for the federal grant after conducting an assessment to determine the needs of affected

workers and the region's demand for future workers in emerging occupations.

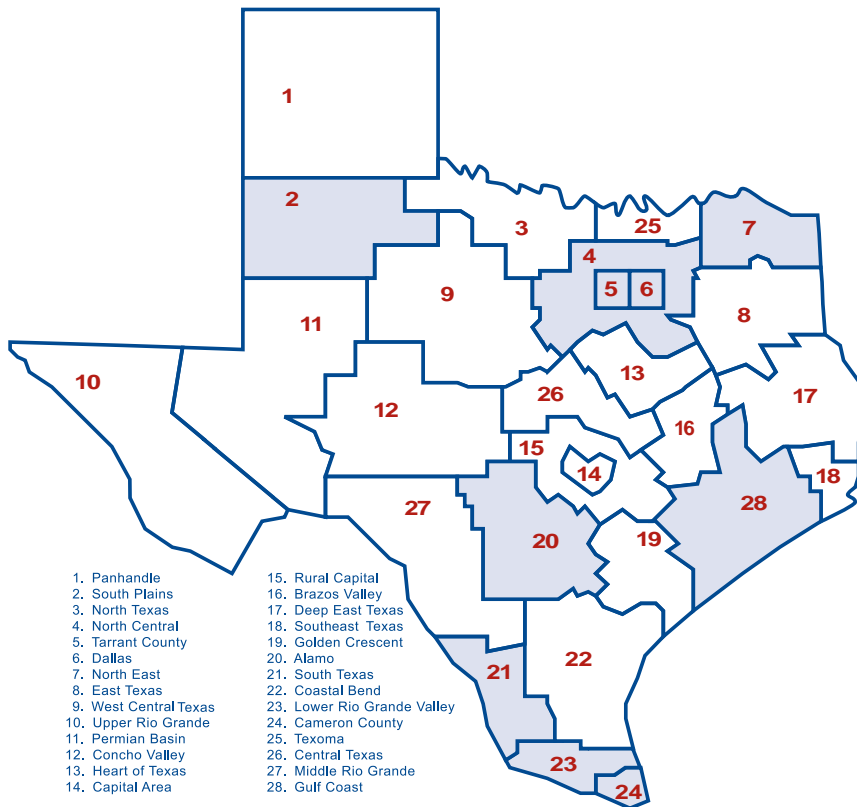
### *Metroplex-area boards join forces to help veterans*

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas, Tarrant County, and North Central Texas and the Texas Veterans Commission combined efforts to hold a veterans job fair that attracted more than 60 employers and more than 500 military veterans at the Embassy Suites Dallas-Frisco Conference Center.

The event gave employers in the service and advanced technology industries the opportunity to interview veterans for more than 500 job openings that could utilize skills gained through military experience.

Held exclusively for veterans, the job fair attracted employers such as AutoZone Inc., Raytheon Co., Lockheed Martin Corp., and law enforcement agencies, and provided information about state and federal veterans' benefits.

# Workforce News Around the State



- 1. Panhandle
- 2. South Plains
- 3. North Texas
- 4. North Central
- 5. Tarrant County
- 6. Dallas
- 7. North East
- 8. East Texas
- 9. West Central Texas
- 10. Upper Rio Grande
- 11. Permian Basin
- 12. Concho Valley
- 13. Heart of Texas
- 14. Capital Area
- 15. Rural Capital
- 16. Brazos Valley
- 17. Deep East Texas
- 18. Southeast Texas
- 19. Golden Crescent
- 20. Alamo
- 21. South Texas
- 22. Coastal Bend
- 23. Lower Rio Grande Valley
- 24. Cameron County
- 25. Texoma
- 26. Central Texas
- 27. Middle Rio Grande
- 28. Gulf Coast



Attendees at the regional launch of the English for Manufacturing and the Skilled Trades Initiative included (front row from left) Senior Vice President for The Manufacturing Institute Jennifer McNelly, TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar and Chief External Affairs and Economic Development Officer for Laredo Community College Blas Castañeda; (back row from left) STC Board of Trustees Vice Chair Rose Benavidez, Account Manager for Sed De Saber Rafael Vargas, NAAMREI Executive Officer Wanda Garza and McAllen Economic Development Corporation CEO Keith Partridge. *Photo courtesy South Texas College*

## Five South Texas boards offer English skills for workers



The Texas Workforce Commission is partnering with The Manufacturing Institute,

based in Washington D.C., and colleges in South Texas to launch an English language proficiency program that teaches jobless individuals and underemployed workers workplace communication skills in English to meet entry-

level manufacturing industry job requirements.

Through the English for Manufacturing and the Skilled Trades Initiative, participants learn important health and safety measures, manufacturing vocabulary, and how to understand administrative forms. The initiative helps boost education and career advancement for more than 350 advanced manufacturing workers across South Texas, and keeps manufacturing employers globally competitive.

Language training is provided by Alamo Community College, Lone Star College, Laredo Community College, South Texas College, and Texas Southmost College. Participating local workforce development boards include Workforce Solutions Alamo, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast, Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley, Workforce Solutions Cameron, and Workforce Solutions for South Texas.

## North Central Texas program fills industry workforce demand

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas (North Central Texas) recently was recognized by the Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) with a 2010 TEDC Workforce Excellence Award.

North Central Texas spearheaded an effort to provide a highly skilled workforce for the logistics industry by creating two professional certification programs for entry- and mid-level employees. North Central Texas has a logistics industry with more than 180,000 workers.

TEDC awards acknowledge exceptional contributions of a Texas entity that has implemented successful workforce initiatives.

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www.workforcesystem.org

**Rural Capital Area**  
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*The Texas Workforce Commission, in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards,  
forms Texas Workforce Solutions.*

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