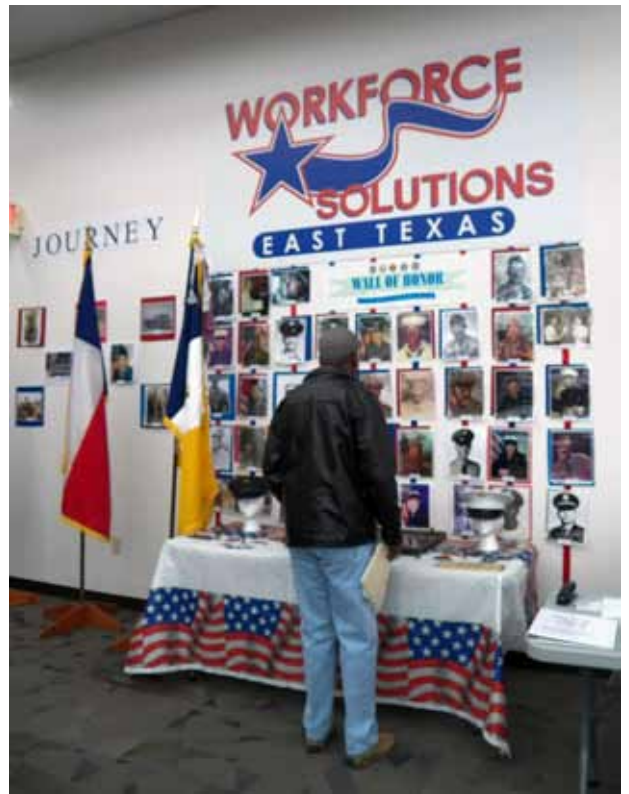


# SOLUTIONS

Winter 2013

Vol. 10, No. 1



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Statewide job fair event showcases the benefits of hiring military veterans

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**On the cover:** Clockwise from top left: Veteran job seekers connected with employers at Hiring Red, White & You! job fairs held at 27 locations throughout the state including this one at the Holiday Inn Park Plaza in Lubbock; The National Guard Armory at the Midland International Airport was the site of the job fair for veterans and their spouses in the Permian Basin; Veterans in Tyler took notice of the Veterans Wall of Honor; Representatives from Champion Cooler Corp. discuss job opportunities with a job seeker at the fair in Texoma; Those who took part in the Lubbock veteran job fair were greeted by Marines collecting "Toys for Tots;" The Austin Convention Center was the Capital Area site for employers interested in connecting with veteran job seekers. *Photos by Workforce Solutions South Plains; Workforce Solutions Permian Basin; Workforce Solutions Texoma; Debbie Pitts*

## Texas Workforce Commission

### Andres Alcantar

*Chairman, Commissioner Representing the Public*

### Ronny Congleton

*Commissioner Representing Labor*

### Tom Pauken

*Commissioner Representing Employers*

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## Tom Pauken

*Commissioner Representing Employers*

What a difference four years makes!

When I joined the Texas Workforce Commission in 2008, I was stunned by the lack of appreciation for vocational education—even here in Texas. State education policy had taken more of a one-size-fits-all approach to education, oriented towards making every student college-ready.

Four years ago, when I gave a speech in Freeport on the need for more opportunities for vocational education, two school superintendents came up to me afterwards and expressed surprise that someone in state government would make such a statement. The whispers of discontent I heard back then have now become a roar.

This elitist-designed education policy, which viewed vocational education as a stepchild, has had the unfortunate effect of choking off the pipeline of skilled workers. The shortage of skilled labor has become more acute with a graying workforce, causing the business community to become increasingly concerned about the shortage of skilled workers.

Parents also are frustrated. The introduction of the STAAR testing program was supposed to result in less emphasis on standardized testing and more emphasis on career and technical education. In practice, the reverse has occurred.

Meanwhile, tuition has skyrocketed at four-year universities, and many young people graduate from college deeply in debt, while having trouble finding decent, entry-level jobs.

Educators—who are on the front lines of our educational system—see a lot of young people dropping out of high school because they don't see the curriculum as relevant.

Texans all across the state—and across the political spectrum—are coming together in a united coalition behind serious alternatives to misguided education policy.

It is time to end this “teaching to the test” system that isn’t working. Let’s replace it with one that focuses on real learning and opportunities for all! ■

# 16th Texas Workforce Conference highlights changing workforce needs

By Mark Lavergne

Employers and state and local workforce professionals envisioned how the Texas workforce can adapt to the needs of the marketplace at the 16th Annual Texas Workforce Conference, themed “The Challenge of Change.” The November event was held in Grapevine. Presenters spoke of a changing economy and the need for increased skill sets.

A keynote speaker was Joshua Bleill, a community spokesperson for the National Football League’s Indianapolis Colts, who received high praise from the audience. He told the inspiring story of his recovery after losing both his legs in combat while serving as a U.S. Marine in Fallujah, Iraq in 2006. Bleill said people who lose their jobs also face difficult change, but that change can lead to great things with the help of workforce professionals.

“Losing a job is a huge bomb,” he said. “What you do is deal with people who’ve had those bombs go off. It’s not a light responsibility. You should take pride in that; you should be proud of what you do.”

Speaking at the conference, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar also commended the work of the local boards.

“I have seen a lot of wonderful work being undertaken by our 28 [Workforce Solutions] boards as I’ve traveled the state and have witnessed the partnerships that you’ve built, a strong commitment to meet the needs of our customers,” Alcantar said.

The conference recognized employers across the state for helping the workforce system of Texas address change. Champion Cooler Corp. of Denison received the top honor as



(From left) TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken, Indianapolis Colts Spokesperson Joshua Bleill, TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton, TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar and TWC Executive Director Larry Temple attend the 16th Annual Texas Workforce Conference in Grapevine. Bleill was a keynote speaker at the conference. Photo by TWC staff

the 2012 Texas Workforce Solutions Employer of the Year. The company partnered with local professionals and Workforce Solutions Texoma to create a growing scholarship program for students to attend manufacturing programs at a local college. Participating students have the opportunity for full-time employment once they finish training.

“As the markets change, as the technologies change, the one thing that doesn’t is the need to develop people,” said Brian Aspell, Champion Cooler’s vice president of manufacturing.

Awards also were presented to workforce boards for excellent service to business, workers, community, and industry sector outreach. A complete list of winners may be found on page 10.

TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton emphasized compassion towards those who face challenges finding work.

“We are morally obligated to lend a helping hand to those in need,”

Congleton said. “At the same time we have to be careful that help does not become a permanent crutch for people who need to stand up on their own two feet.”

The conference’s various speakers and workshops emphasized employer competitiveness, multiple paths to educational attainment and employment, how to use social media to find work, the changing face of the Texas labor market, and more.

TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Tom Pauken called for a renewed commitment to skills training to meet the demands of the marketplace. He also expressed excitement over recent energy discoveries.

“The energy developments over the past few years are potential economic game changers for the U.S. as well as Texas,” Pauken said.

Mark your calendars for the 17th Annual Texas Workforce Conference, Dec. 4-6, 2013 at the Grand Hyatt San Antonio. ■

# High school students jump start careers at new Killeen ISD center

By Laura Ybarra

When Killeen Independent School District (KISD) opened the doors of its new career center on Aug. 26, it was a moment nearly 30 years in the making. In 2011, KISD decided to open the center to offer professional certifications and coursework to students from the four KISD high schools: Ellison, Harker Heights, Killeen, and Robert M. Shoemaker.

“KISD has had career programs in place since the mid-1980s, but we were only able to offer a handful of programs due to space constraints,” said KISD Career Center Executive Director Marvin Rainwater.

“Unfortunately, many of the programs came and went. The new center gives KISD the ability to permanently establish career-centered programs.”

KISD worked with local employers and Workforce Solutions of Central Texas to identify and develop coursework to train students for nine in-demand career fields, including information technology, health science, manufacturing, and human services. Students also have the opportunity to use technology and equipment in their chosen field.

“The Career Center really offers students a unique opportunity to graduate from high school and already have skills and certifications to put on their résumés and set themselves apart from other job applicants,” said Rainwater. “KISD also has articulation agreements with local colleges and universities, so students can actually earn college credit for courses they take at the career center.”

Career center students attend classes at their home campus for half the school day, and are bussed to the center for the other half.



KISD Career Center students Desiree Valdez (left) and Minet Ramsey (right) earn credit toward their cosmetology licenses. *Photo by Killeen Independent School District*

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“The Career Center really offers students a unique opportunity to graduate from high school and already have skills and certifications to put on their résumés.”

**Marvin Rainwater**  
KISD Career Center Executive Director

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“These students are choosing to make sacrifices to be at the career center, whether its spending less time with friends, or not participating in extracurricular activities,” said Mike Page, a KISD Career Center video game design instructor. “However, it creates an amazing learning dynamic because all the students are passionate about what they’re doing

and really want to succeed.”

Joseph Taylor, a junior at Harker Heights High School, is enrolled in the center’s cosmetology program.

“My instructors are all licensed cosmetologists and have owned their own salons,” said Taylor. “Their experience, integrity, and discipline have taught me so much, and I really have to credit them for the advancement the program has given me.”

Taylor has already earned his shampoo apprentice license and worked at a local salon this summer. He will be a fully licensed cosmetologist once he graduates, and plans to work his way through college and one day own his own cosmetology product line.

“I’m so happy that KISD built the career center,” Taylor said. “I have the unique opportunity to work with students from other schools that are just as passionate and driven as I am. That’s why we’re all here—to help each other achieve our dreams and be successful in our careers.” ■

# New training program starts 'Just In Time'

Skilled worker shortage in San Antonio spurs creation of fast-track curriculum

By Kate Hourin

At least 2,500 manufacturing jobs in the San Antonio area are vacant and ready to be filled, according to the San Antonio Manufacturers Association (SAMA). The shortage of skilled workers prompted Workforce Solutions Alamo (Alamo), SAMA, and Alamo Colleges to partner and design a skills training program.

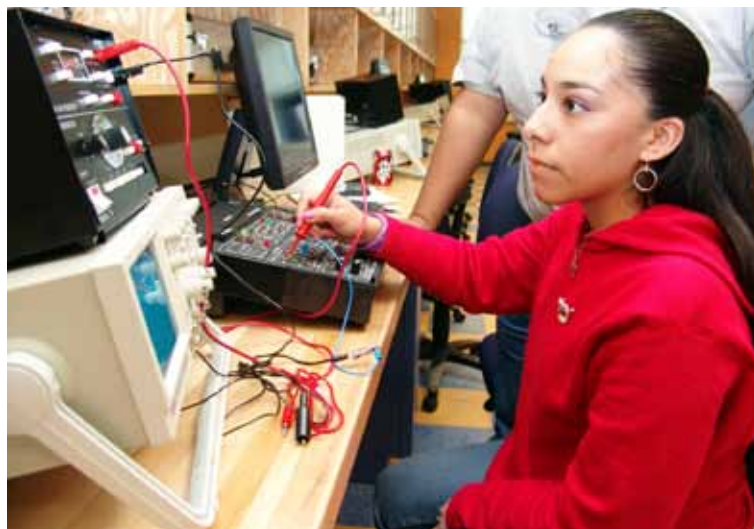
The Just in Time Skilled Workforce Development pilot program launched

October 22, with its first class of 25 students, including veterans who receive an enrollment preference. It's a 90-day fast-track training program to help participants obtain skills certifications in manufacturing arenas needed to fill job openings in the 12-county area.

"We want to grow the local workforce pool," said Alamo Executive Director Patrick Newman. "We have commitments from employers to interview and hire these people once training is completed. Employers from outside the 12-county region also are interested in hiring these trainees."

The self-paced, or competency-based, training includes a blend of lectures, online training, and hands-on skills labs for machinists, skilled assembly, and production operations technicians. They may work at companies in various industries such as aerospace, automotive, and medical. The training takes place at the new Alamo Colleges Center for Workforce Excellence at Port San Antonio. Upon successful completion, students will receive a Manufacturing Skill Standards Certificate or the National Institute for Metalworking Skills certification.

Newman said there are many advantages to the



Just in Time workforce training is a 90-day fast-track training program that aims to quickly instruct adult workers in the manufacturing skills most needed by San Antonio-area companies. Photo by San Antonio Manufacturers Association

competency training because it allows students to work at their own pace.

"There is the portability of the virtual classroom," he said. "This allows what was once a six-month training program to be condensed to this 90-day timetable, which allows the student to access online modules at home."

Just in Time focuses predominantly on training veterans because employers can receive a federal incentive called the Work Opportunity Tax Credit. It also is open to men and women who have some manufacturing work experience.

Alamo screens program candidates for experience and a high school completion degree. Newman said they hope to train between 250 and 300 people in the first year at a cost of \$4,044 per person using Workforce Investment Act Adult and Dislocated Workers funds. The program also reimburses employers up to 75 percent for four weeks of customized on-the-job training for the students, who can make between \$12 and \$17 per hour once trained.

Alamo Colleges Vice Chancellor for Economic and Workforce Development Dr. Frederico Zaragoza said Just In Time is modeled after an aerospace training program at Boeing Corp.

"This is a proven training system and we hope to eventually expand Just in Time to the aerospace and IT sectors," said Zaragoza. "With a large number of returning veterans in our community, we want to create pathways to connect them to jobs."

For more information about Just In Time, visit [www.justintimesa.com](http://www.justintimesa.com). ■





Photo by iStockphoto/Thinkstock

By Debbie Pitts

With thousands of military men and women returning from service abroad, the need to help our veterans transition from military service to the civilian workforce warranted nothing short of a job fair as big as Texas. That's exactly what took place on November 15 as the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Texas' local workforce development boards, and the Texas Veterans Commission, with support from Gov. Rick Perry and Texas Medical Center Dr. James H. "Red" Duke Jr., partnered to assist those who bravely served our country with finding their next job.

As part of the Hiring Red, White & You! public awareness campaign, 27 job fairs specifically for veterans and their spouses were held throughout the state on a single day. More than 1,400 employers participated in the fairs, which were held in large venues like Rangers Ballpark in Arlington and smaller military-friendly locations like the United States Army Reserve Center in Bryan.

"The talent and experiences our veterans bring back from their service in the military are an important, and, all too often, untapped resource for our communities," said Gov. Perry. "The Hiring Red, White & You! campaign is a great opportunity to help veterans utilize their skills to get a job in Texas, and help employers find talented and experienced individuals to fill open job opportunities."

## Hiring Red, White & You! job fairs connect thousands of Texas veterans and employers

BELOW: More than 40 employers attended the Hiring Red, White & You! November 15 job fair in McAllen, while many others who could not attend in person connected with veterans through a "virtual fair" that was held in the ballroom of the McAllen Convention Center next to the traditional booth fair.

Photo by Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley



# Veterans Focus

The fairs were a tremendous success with more than 10,000 job seekers in attendance. Some veterans were offered jobs at the fairs, while many others found follow-up possibilities and networking connections.

Former Marine Victoria Tran came to the job fair at the Austin Convention Center hoping to find clerical or food service work.

“It has been very hard to find anything since I left the service. I spend a lot of time applying for jobs online and driving to different locations to apply for work,” Tran said.

The fairs gave Tran and other vets a one-stop opportunity to meet with many employment recruiters like Letty Gonzalez, human resources manager for ARYZTA LLC, who came to the event hoping to find a good crew of potential employees for this food distribution company.

“We have 10 to 12 positions available,” said Gonzalez, who was attending a veterans-focused event for the first time. “We recently moved from being a privately owned company to part of a larger public corporation where there is more structure. We want to see if people coming from the military will bring focus and structure to the job that will help us succeed and grow.”

On the other hand, Sandra Barrette, a recruiter for the Texas Department of Public Safety, frequents veterans-focused events because she is well aware of the attributes that veterans bring to the workplace.

“We have troopers recruiting at all 27 of these events today for about 300 jobs statewide,” Barrette said. “Veterans are a good fit for us because of the discipline and respect they gain through their military service. We are so grateful to the military for instilling those attributes as part of their training.”

Joshua Deckler, a veteran who



TOP: Marine veteran, Victoria Tran, discusses opportunities with representatives from Associated Marine and Industrial Staffing Inc. at the Hiring Red, White & You! job fair in Austin.

RIGHT: Sandra Barrette was one of many Department of Public Safety (DPS) recruiters who attended the Hiring Red, White & You! job fairs throughout the state in hopes of finding veterans to fill more than 300 DPS openings statewide.

Photos by Debbie Pitts

joined the army straight out of high school, also believes that the discipline he learned through military service would benefit employers.

“Being in the military definitely taught me discipline and a good work ethic,” Deckler said. “It changed me for the better. It definitely taught me how to get over stuff and move on.”

Deckler not only met with a number of employers at the Austin event, he also connected with TWC Veterans Resource & Referral Specialist Zachary Scalf, who provides services to veterans as part of TWC’s Texas Veterans Leadership Program.

“I made an appointment to sit down with Josh to help him tailor his résumé to improve his chances of finding employment,” Scalf said.

Employers all over the state had job vacancies to fill. Some, like St.



David’s HealthCare in Austin, had several hundred jobs to fill. Others, like Intertech Flooring, had a few immediate vacancies, but also were recruiting for a large number of future jobs as the company expands into new industries.

“I am very impressed with the caliber of employers that have come out for this event,” said Workforce Solutions Capital Area Board Member Mary Daigle. “So much more needs to be done for our veterans to assist them with their transition to work in the civilian world. I am glad that this event came together with so many quality employment possibilities for these veterans.” ■

# Grant aims to address skills gap

Thousands of North Texas workers to be trained in in-demand technical fields

By Rachael Pierce

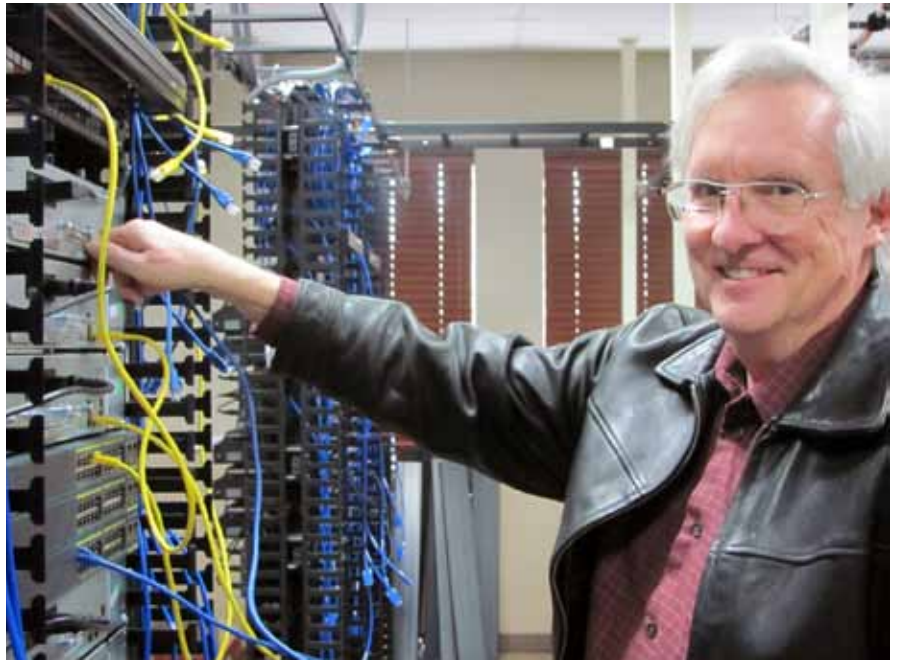
More than 4,000 workers in North Texas are upgrading their skill sets thanks to a four-year \$4.9 million U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) grant awarded to Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas (North Central). Funded under DOL's H-1B Technical Skills Training Grant Competition, the grant provides skills training in information technology (IT) and science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields.

Two categories of workers will benefit from the grant—employed workers at partner companies, and the long-term unemployed who have been without a job for 27 weeks or longer.

“In today’s IT marketplace, if you don’t have the technical skills then you aren’t going to be able to perform in your job,” said Stephen Dodd, project executive at IBM, one of the partnering companies. “There is a huge gap in the market right now, and this grant is just one vehicle to bridge the gap between job requirements and the skills needed to meet those job requirements.”

Approximately 3,950 workers will receive skills training through their employer and/or a college partner. Partner companies include IBM, Lockheed Martin, AT&T, Business Control Systems, and Labinal Inc.

According to Natalie Moffitt, workforce development manager for North Central, local employers have voiced concerns about the challenges they are facing to find workers with the skill sets to meet their needs.



Murphy Babb, a student receiving training at North Central Texas College, works with a Cisco router during class. Babb enjoys using simulation software, as it gives him the ability to apply what they learn in the classroom to the real world. *Photo courtesy North Central Texas College*

“As of October 2011, there were 22,000 vacant positions in the Dallas-Fort Worth area in IT and STEM fields,” said Moffitt. “We have plenty of interest; however, the individuals applying for the jobs available don’t have the skills positions require.”

As an H-1B grant, funds are used as a tool to provide American workers with the skill sets needed to help reduce businesses’ reliance on foreign labor through H-1B visas.

From database administrators to computer systems analysts, grant funds will pay for 50 percent of the specialized training incumbent employees receive. The goal is to help individuals keep their skills up to speed with ever-changing technology, which in turn will yield more value to the individual, the company, and the North Texas region.

An additional 200 long-term

unemployed individuals with some work experience and education in technical fields will be trained under this grant to upgrade their skills and make them competitive in the job market. Grant funds will cover the full cost of training for these participants, who also must have already earned an associate’s degree.

“The main goal for participants under this grant is to garner the skills they need to get back into the workforce,” said Djuna Forrester, dean of lifelong learning for North Central Texas College (NCTC), where the training will be offered. “At NCTC, we’re providing the training needed to help participants obtain the necessary skills and certifications, as well as the support services to help them update their résumés, and learn and practice interviewing skills. Ultimately, we want to make their re-entry into the workforce as seamless as possible.” ■



## DOL money funds expanded education programs at Austin Community College

By Kate Hourin

Twenty-eight percent of available jobs in Central Texas are in computer programming and other information technology (IT) positions, according to the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce. Austin Community College (ACC) is gearing up to train students and incumbent workers to fill employers' needs with part of a recent \$4.5 million U.S. Department of Labor grant.

"Tech companies are relocating to and expanding in Austin," said Drew Scheberle, senior vice president of education and talent development for the Austin Chamber. "This money will be used to increase the number of Central Texans with these requisite computer skills."

Over the next three years, \$2 million of the \$4.5 million grant will be used to develop curriculum for 24

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*"There is a thirst to develop competency-based education. It is especially helpful for those who are employed, who can be trained, and learn during their off-hours."*

**Dr. Richard Rhodes**  
Austin Community College President

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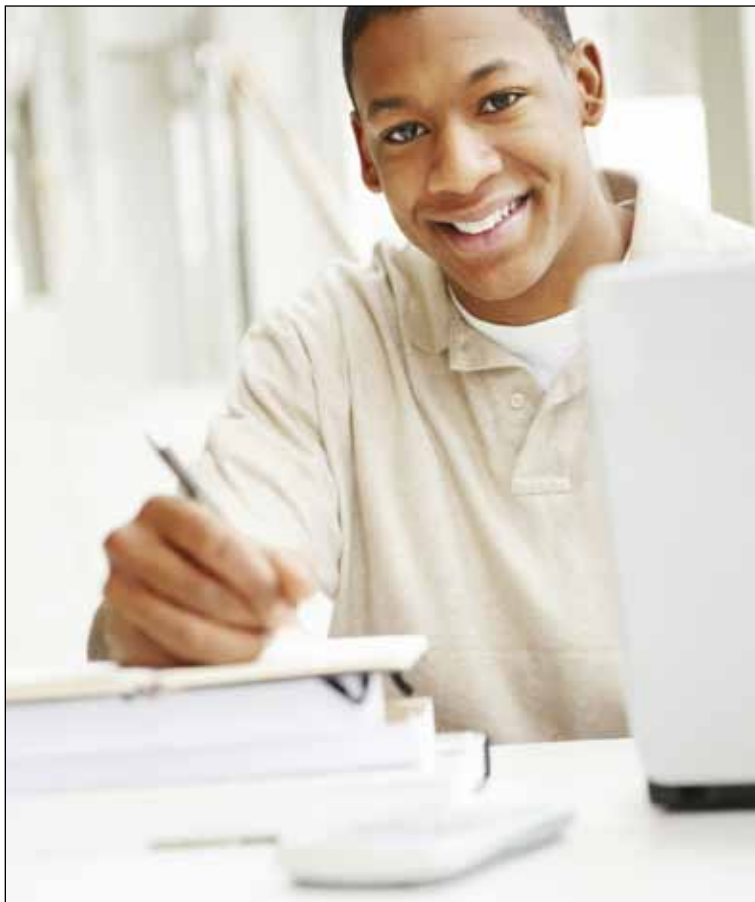
IT courses; \$2 million will be used to expand ACC's nursing program; and \$500,000 is earmarked to enhance the college's biotechnology curriculum.

ACC is partnering with Western Governors University Texas (WGU), a nonprofit online

university, to develop competency-based learning at ACC. WGU allows students to work at their own pace, potentially reducing the time to complete a class. That would save time and money, according to ACC President Dr. Richard Rhodes.

"There is a thirst to develop competency-based education," Rhodes said. "It is especially helpful for those who are employed, who can be trained, and learn during their off-hours."

Competency-based training includes online and on-campus classes and services. At the completion of a series of courses, students will be able to earn



Austin Community College will partner with Western Governors University Texas to develop competency-based learning at ACC, which will allow students to work at their own pace, potentially reducing the time to complete a class.

*Photo by iStockphoto/Thinkstock*

certificates, associate degrees, and industry certifications, which will prepare them to move into highly skilled jobs.

"This innovative partnership expands the pool of talented Texans graduating college with credentials in high-demand science, technology, engineering, and math fields," said Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Andres Alcantar. "I commend ACC and WGU for this partnership."

ACC also is partnering with two other colleges to develop curriculum for these IT courses—Sinclair Community College in Ohio and Broward College in Florida. Each college will develop certain portions of the curriculum and then share with the other two.

The competency-based program is expected to be ready for ACC students in fall 2013. ■

## Congratulations to the award winners from the 2012 Texas Workforce Conference

### Service to Business Award

Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend

### Service to Workers Award

Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande

### Service to Community Award

Workforce Solutions of Central Texas

### Industry Sector Outreach Award

Workforce Solutions for South Texas

### Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Exemplary Awards

(First) Workforce Solutions of Central Texas

(Second) Workforce Solutions Panhandle

(Third) Workforce Solutions Cameron

### Performance Incentive Awards

#### Claimant Reemployment

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande

Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend

Workforce Solutions Permian Basin

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent

### WIA Adult/Dislocated Worker Training-Related Employment

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas

Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend

Workforce Solutions Permian Basin

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent

### WIA Youth Preparedness

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

Workforce Solutions Capital Area

Workforce Solutions Permian Basin

Workforce Solutions Texoma

### Partnership Awards

Trinity Valley Community College

Texas State Technical College-Harlingen

### Employer of the Year: Top 5 Finalists

Champion Cooler Corp. (winner)

Mouser Electronics Inc.

Nabors Completion and Production Services

Priefert Mfg. Co. Inc.

Walgreens Distribution Center

## *Veterans retraining assistance program available for vets*

More unemployed veterans can receive training that may help them find work, thanks to a new federally funded training assistance program for veterans between the ages of 35 and 60.

The Veterans Retraining Assistance Program (VRAP) was created as part of the Vow to Hire Heroes Act of 2011. The program began accepting a limited number of participants on a first-come, first-served basis in July.

Qualifying participants can receive up to \$1,473 a month for up to 12 months to help pay education costs.

To qualify for the program, veterans must not be enrolled in a federal or state job training program and must not be eligible for any other Veterans Administration education benefit programs such as the Post 9/11 GI Bill, the Montgomery GI Bill, or Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment. The program aims to

close the gap left by those programs and assist older veterans who served prior to the conflicts in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Individuals interested in participating in the program who would like to receive more information are encouraged to contact their local Texas Workforce Commission Veterans Resource Referral Specialist (VRRS). VRRSs are peer mediators who serve veterans through TWC's Texas Veterans Leadership Program. For a list of VRRSs by area, visit [www.texasworkforce.org/tvlp/tvlp\\_vrrs.html](http://www.texasworkforce.org/tvlp/tvlp_vrrs.html).

Applications for VRAP are available at [www.va.gov](http://www.va.gov) or [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov).

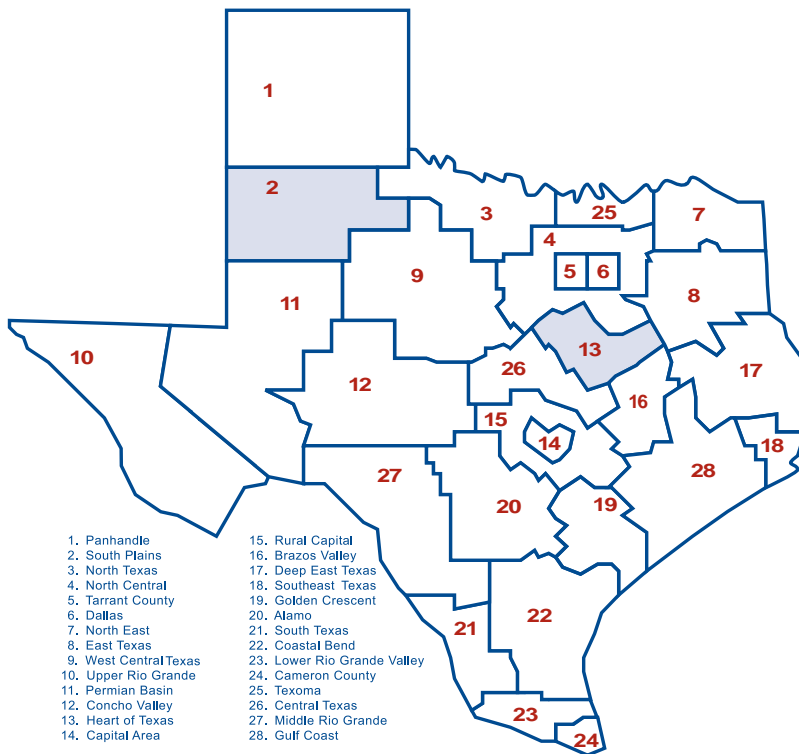
## *TWC employee receives award at NASWA conference*

John Fowler received the prestigious 2012 Merrill Baumgardner Award at the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) Annual Conference's "Salute to Leadership



John Fowler (left), TWC's UI systems manager for the applications development and maintenance unit, received the 2012 Merrill Baumgardner Award from NASWA President Bonnie Elsey (right) at the NASWA Annual Conference's "Salute to Leadership Awards" ceremony in San Diego this September. Photo courtesy of NASWA

Awards" ceremony in San Diego in September. Fowler serves as the unemployment insurance (UI) systems manager for TWC's applications development and maintenance unit. This award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated excellence in the field of automation with a state workforce agency. Fowler



was selected out of nominees from across the country for his significant contributions to the field of information technology.

“I was honored just to be nominated, and I was very surprised to have been recognized with the award,” said Fowler. “There are many dedicated, qualified IT professionals around the nation that deserve the same recognition.”

The award is named for Merrill Baumgardner, a 55-year Ohio public servant who served 31 years as data processing manager for the Ohio Bureau of Employment Services.

“I’m really fortunate to work at a place with a bunch of highly skilled, professional people. They make my job easy,” said Fowler. “Likewise, I’m fortunate to have a management structure that allows me to challenge myself and the agency to always improve our service delivery. It is this collaborative, team-oriented environment that has helped me succeed.”

Fowler first came to TWC in

June 2004 as the UI benefits system manager. In September 2010, he became UI systems manager for benefits, tax, and appeals applications.

## *Certified child care providers recognized at annual banquet*

Workforce Solutions Heart of Texas (Heart of Texas) honored local exemplary child care providers at the 2012 ChildOne Early Childhood Recognition Banquet in October. More than 200 child care providers, members of the business community, elected officials, and community leaders came together for the event. Specifically, Heart of Texas recognized 28 Texas Rising Star certified child care providers who have gone above and beyond state licensing requirements to help elevate the quality of child care services in the region.

“The focus of the ChildOne initiative springs from the understanding that early childhood is a critical period for laying the foundation of future success in

school and life,” said Julie Talbert, child care and transportation contract manager for Heart of Texas. “Our annual event recognizes the importance of high quality early care and education and those that provide early care and education to our children.”

Heart of Texas spearheads the ChildOne initiative as a way to raise awareness about the positive impact of early childhood education on the development of young children.

## *South Plains obtains grant for Lubbock training center*

The Texas Workforce Commission awarded \$372,000 in Wagner-Peyser funds to the Community Workforce Partnership (CWP) to create the South Plains Center for Productivity and Innovation in Lubbock. The center provides training for eligible incumbent workers and serves as a training and mentoring resource for eligible entrepreneurs. CWP is comprised of Workforce Solutions South Plains (South Plains), the Lubbock Chamber of Commerce, Lubbock Economic Development Alliance, South Plains College, Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center (TMAC), and Texas Tech University.

South Plains provides administration at the center and TMAC directly oversees daily operations. The center plans to train 240 workers from at least 20 identified businesses in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) related skills and provide entrepreneurial training and mentoring to at least 38 new business seekers.

The center is located at 1622 Mac Davis Lane in Lubbock.

Employers or entrepreneurs interested in finding out more about eligibility requirements should contact TMAC Senior Business Field Advisor Michael Sanders at [m.sanders@nwtbsdc.org](mailto:m.sanders@nwtbsdc.org) or 806-745-7926.



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www.bvjobs.org

**Deep East Texas**  
(936) 639-8898  
www.detwork.org

**North Central**  
(817) 695-9184  
www.dfwjobs.com

**South Texas**  
(956) 722-3973  
www.southtexasworkforce.org

**Cameron County**  
(956) 548-6700  
www.wfscameron.org

**East Texas**  
(903) 984-8641  
www.easttexasworkforce.org

**North East Texas**  
(903) 794-9490  
www.netxworkforce.org

**Tarrant County**  
(817) 413-4400  
www.workforcesolutions.net

**Capital Area**  
(512) 597-7100  
www.wfscapitalarea.com

**Golden Crescent**  
(361) 576-5872  
www.gcworkforce.org

**North Texas**  
(940) 767-1432  
www.ntxworksolutions.org

**Texoma**  
(903) 957-7408  
www.workforcesolutionstexoma.com

**Central Texas**  
(254) 939-3771  
www.workforcelink.com

**Gulf Coast**  
(713) 627-3200  
(888) 469-5627  
www.wrksolutions.com

**Panhandle**  
(806) 372-3381  
www.wspanhandle.com

**Upper Rio Grande**  
(915) 772-2002  
www.urgjobs.com

**Coastal Bend**  
(361) 885-3016  
www.workforcesolutionscb.org

**Heart of Texas**  
(254) 296-5300  
www.hotworkforce.com

**Permian Basin**  
(432) 563-5239  
www.workforcepb.org

**West Central**  
(325) 795-4200  
(800) 457-5633  
www.workforcesystem.org

**Rural Capital Area**  
(512) 244-7966  
www.workforcesolutionsrca.com

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



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