

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 17, 2008

MEDIA CONTACT: Ann Hatchitt

PHONE: (512) 463-8556

Health Care Consortium Partners with TSTC Harlingen for a \$943,962 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – A health care consortium has partnered with TSTC Harlingen to provide training for 1,874 new or upgraded jobs using a \$943,962 job-training grant from the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Skills Development Fund.

The grant will be used to create or upgrade positions, including medical aides, nurses, office managers and physicians. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$31.47. The health care consortium consists of Valley Baptist Health System Inc., Valley Baptist Medical Centers in Harlingen and Brownsville, and Harlingen Physician Network.



The Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar (at right) presents a check for \$943,962 to (from left) Valley Baptist Health System (VBHS) President and CEO James Eastham, VBHS Administrative Assistant for Information Services Johnnie Hahs, TSTC Corporate College Vice President Adam Hutchison, VBHS Senior Vice President and Chief Information Officer James Barbaglia and TSTC Harlingen Vice President of Student Learning Pat Hobbs to provide skills training for 1,874 new or upgraded positions in the health field. *(Photo courtesy of TSTC Harlingen.)*

Skills Grant

“Through this training grant, nearly 750 jobs will be created, and more than 1,100 workers will receive further training in highly skilled, high-demand jobs,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “This is a great example of partnership between the private and public sectors to produce good-paying jobs for Texans.”

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 20,831 jobs, which paid an average hourly wage of \$19.04. These grants assisted 281 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$50 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2008-09 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC Web site at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/sdfintro.html>.

TSTC Harlingen contact: Adam Hutchinson at (956) 364-4500 or adam.hutchison@harlingen.tstc.edu

###ash

The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.