



Workforce News Around the State

This page recognizes the innovative concepts, exemplary programs and diverse achievements of The Texas Workforce Commission's 28 workforce development boards. It showcases practices and procedures that have proven successful and that other workforce boards may want to replicate to promote and support a workforce system that offers employers, individuals and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity. Learn more about these results-driven initiatives and success stories by clicking on any of the following links:

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Upper Rio Web Site Addresses Hiring of Military Spouses



A Web site launched by Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande that connects military spouses with jobs captured the attention of 55 employers and 334 military spouses, and received more than 1,400 hits in its first month.

The Web site, www.elpasojobregister.com, allows incoming military spouses to get a jump on the greater El Paso market by posting resumes, searching for available jobs, and learning about the community and other employment resources.

Many Web viewers were from outside the region.

“Military spouses are great workers and tend to stay with the same company a while once hired,” said Sandi Smith, who has hired for Comfort Keepers, a local in-home care service.



South Plains Board Assists Company with Hiring Needs for New Distribution Center



WorkForce Solutions South Plains assisted the O'Reilly Automotive Inc. management team with staffing the company's new 200,000 square-foot regional distribution center.

Board staff provided recruiting, screening, job matching, and referral services for more than 300 applicants, of which the company hired more than 100.

The longstanding partnership of the Lubbock-area board with economic development partners to expand manufacturing in the South Plains helped attract the company, which is one of the nation's largest specialty retailers of automotive aftermarket parts, tools, supplies, equipment, and accessories. The jobs will generate an estimated \$15.4 million in annual salaries and, in 2010, \$4 billion in expected sales revenue.

The company's work and industry-specific training incentives attracted dislocated workers, post-secondary students, and retired and active military personnel.



Dr. Covey at Seminar: Keep Family Strong During Jobless Transition



More than 1,600 attentive job seekers were treated to a free seminar in Dallas featuring popular author and “life coach” Dr. Stephen Covey, who promoted strengthening family bonds during unemployment transition. Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas partnered with employment consulting company, Business Access, to host the widely-publicized event.

Covey, 76, is recognized among Time magazine’s 25 most influential Americans. In 1989, he authored The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, which has sold more than 15 million copies worldwide.

Covey encourages jobless individuals to find work that fulfills inner needs and keeps families secure, and to find a company that will help them achieve those goals.



Coastal Bend Board Honored for Petrochemical Industry Efforts



Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend was honored with the Theodore E. Small Workforce Partnership Award from the National Association of Workforce Boards for its collaborations with Port Industries of Corpus Christi.

The board-established Workforce Development Coalition helps large employers address challenges associated with finding skilled workers. The coalition includes 16 petrochemical companies, 245 schools, and 10 workforce entities in 12 counties to identify the needs of employers, and develop programs to prepare students with the necessary skills for petrochemical careers.

Coastal Bend was chosen from among 18 other workforce boards nationwide based on the partnership's broad scope, longevity, and impact.



Capital Area Seminar Eyes Challenges, Solutions to Operate Successful Business



More than 50 current or prospective small business owners benefited from a free seminar in Austin that explored challenges of operating a small business. The event was sponsored by Workforce Solutions Capital Area, Austin's Small Business Development Program, and IBM Corp.

The Resources Revealed seminar addressed recruiting, interviewing, and hiring the most qualified employees. It also featured the IBM Session Management Exit Toolkit, which offers free business management information and training for small businesses including accounting and finance, business planning, human resources, marketing and sales, operations, and information technology.

The Toolkit provides how-to articles, business forms, free business software, and online training to help entrepreneurs, business owners, and managers in emerging markets and developing countries start, finance, formalize, and grow their businesses.



New Alamo Career Center Boasts Efficiency, Upgraded Resources



Workforce Solutions Alamo has opened an improved and more space-efficient career center, previously located at 1201 Austin Highway, at 4615 Walzem Road, Suite 100, in San Antonio.

The new 13,321 square-foot center boasts 45 workstations, a large computer lab for Internet-based training, and three state-of-the-art classrooms for workshops and Unemployment Insurance orientations.

The facility's reception area provides room for informational sessions, and its second floor offers space for employers working with Business Services staff. This area also is available for reservations by other service organizations.

Local Home Depot officials, who recently held a successful on-site job fair, praised the staff and services they provide at the new location.



TWC Presents \$1.6 Million Check, Combats Turnover at BRAC Summit

The Texas Workforce Commission presented a \$1.6 million check during a recent Central Texas Regional Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) summit to support BRAC services and combat turnover of military service members and base contractors.

More than 70 local education, workforce, economic development, and community leadership representatives also participated in the summit, which was presented by Workforce Solutions of Central Texas.

The BRAC Regional Council presented results from a Labor Force Impact Study, and a planning session was held about developing and retaining area talent and businesses, aligning community, workforce and economic development efforts, promoting post-secondary education opportunities, and identifying skills of existing military.



Forum Provides Agriculture Employers with Latest Labor Laws, Regulation

More than 50 McAllen area agriculture industry employers addressed working conditions for employees and brushed up on state and federal law during a recent Lower Rio Grande Valley forum.

Hosted by Workforce Solutions Office of Business Partnerships, the forum was presented in English and Spanish, and featured speakers from the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Civil Rights Division, the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the U.S. Department of Justice, the U.S. Department of Labor, and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security.

Topics included wrongful immigration employment practices, wage and hour policies, citizenship status discrimination, the Fair Housing Act, and laws involving child labor in agriculture.



Panhandle Job Fair Attracts 2,500 Looking for Work

A Workforce Solutions Panhandle job fair held recently at Amarillo Civic Center attracted 106 employers to fill positions in retail, insurance, aviation, health care, food service, banking, oil and gas, child care, and the meat-packing industries.

The civic center reached full capacity. As many as five employers traveled from as far away as New Mexico and Oklahoma to find qualified workers despite poor weather conditions.

The inclement weather couldn't dampen spirits, said Mollie Barney, Panhandle business services coordinator. The fair drew 2,500 determined job seekers in search of employment.



South Plains Training Partnership Addresses Manufacturing Industry

Workforce Solutions South Plains joined forces with Osteogenics Biomedical Inc., a major medical device manufacturing company in Lubbock, to address the biomedical industry's growth and to increase the area's number of skilled Lean Manufacturing workers.

South Plains funded training provided by the West Texas Manufacturing Assistance Center for employees to evaluate production, eliminate production process barriers, and to heighten efficiency by engaging mapping principles to break down production systems into basic components.

Training is offered to strengthen Osteogenics' global competitive advantage and increase efficiency by minimizing the required number of workers, materials, funds, equipment, inventory, and wait time to complete jobs. Participants also gain greater responsibilities and earn higher wages upon completion of training.



Job Fair Attracts Veterans Ready to Join Workforce

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas, Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas, and Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County joined AT&T, the Garland Chamber of Commerce, the Dallas County Manufacturer's Association, TWC, and the Texas Veterans Commission Regions III and IV to host a regional job fair exclusively for job-seeking U.S. military veterans.

Regional employers tapped into a ready and available talent pool at the event, which attracted about 500 veterans, 65 employers, and other state local agencies ready to offer support services.

Invitations were mailed to job-seeking veterans identified through TWC's WorkInTexas.com online job-matching system.



Rotary Club Honors West Central Texas Board with Community Service Award

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas has been honored by the Abilene Southwest Rotary Club for its service and dedication throughout the 19 counties it serves.

West Central Texas places Texans in jobs and equips workers with skills needed to foster economic development.

Board achievements have included developing the Fast-Track welding training program for entry-level welders; establishing a scholarship with rural hospitals to address a nursing shortage; and offering a locally created Workforce Investment Fund to provide financial assistance to small and medium businesses for training and employee retention.