

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TWC Announces Grant Recipients for Energy, Aerospace and Defense Clusters

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in conjunction with the Office of the Governor, today announced the recipients of \$4 million in funding for the Energy, and Aerospace and Defense industry clusters as part of the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* grant program. Endorsed by Gov. Rick Perry, this initiative targets the six industry clusters.

“Communities uniting professional colleagues, suppliers, customers, skilled laborers, and research and development institutions are important in bringing together all of an industry’s moving parts,” said Gov. Perry. “Business clusters add to the diversity of our economy, while promoting efficiency and innovation in today’s advancing industries. I am proud of the partnerships we are building today, and look forward to what tomorrow will bring.”

For the Energy Cluster, two grant recipients and corresponding award amounts include:

- **Texas State Technical College West Texas** received \$523,430 to develop online training, and establish training and certification standards for wind energy technicians. The program is the first of its kind and complements Texas’ fast growing wind energy industry.
- **WorkSource – Greater Austin Area Workforce Board** received \$628,420. *WorkSource*, together with five Austin-area businesses, will conduct a regional workforce skills assessment for the sustainable energy industry. The consortium will develop a plan based on the assessment, and create courses in solar and renewable energy. The Central Texas Energy Cluster Workforce Consortium is comprised of *WorkSource*, Austin Community College, the Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce, Capital IDEA and local employers.

For the Aerospace and Defense Cluster, three grant recipients and corresponding award amounts include:

- **Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership** received \$1,456,652 to develop aerospace engineering education opportunities at the undergraduate and graduate level that support Johnson Space Center-area employers and the aerospace industry. The emphasis will be on aerospace career pathways, and engaging the workforce in science, technology, engineering and math activities.

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Clusters

- **Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County** received \$1,025,601 to provide entry-level aerospace training that will result in a nationally recognized manufacturing credential. This collaboration includes the three largest aviation companies in the Dallas-Fort Worth area, including Lockheed Martin, Vought Aircraft Industries and Bell Helicopter. Graduates will receive both aerospace and advanced manufacturing certifications, ensuring a broader talent base to meet industry demand and address critical shortages.
- **University of Texas at Arlington** received \$364,141 to address several issues involving training, certification and education in unmanned and autonomous systems technologies, as identified in the Aerospace and Defense Cluster Assessment Report.

The *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* grants seek to develop market-driven education and training opportunities that will provide a skilled workforce pipeline to meet the short- or long-term needs of the target industries. The five selected proposals address several different areas of the workforce pipeline: incumbent or dislocated workers who wish to obtain training to upgrade their skills, youth entering the workforce for the first time and new workers interested in pursuing careers in the Texas industry cluster occupations.

The initiatives outlined in the winning proposals will help build on existing partnerships in business and education, engage youth in science and math specific to advanced technology and manufacturing and further position Texas as an innovator in workforce development.

These grants are an example of Texas leveraging federal Workforce Investment Act funds to further develop a world-class workforce.

For more information on the *Meeting Industries' Critical Workforce Needs* Request for Proposals, visit the Texas Building and Procurement Commission Electronic State Business Daily Web site at:

<http://www.tbpc.state.tx.us>.

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