

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Manufacturing Consortium Partners with McLennan Community College for \$1.3 Million Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – A manufacturing consortium has partnered with McLennan Community College (MCC) to provide customized training for new and incumbent employees using a \$1,327,924 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The consortium includes Aramark, Behlen Manufacturing Co., Caterpillar Logistics Services Inc., Caterpillar Work Tools Inc., Romark Logistics of Texas Inc. and Sonoco Flexible Packaging Co. Inc. This grant will benefit the Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas area.

The grant will be used to custom train 916 new and incumbent workers on safety procedures, first aid, basic computing and lean manufacturing. Those trained will include warehouse associates, maintenance workers and manufacturing operators. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$18.93.



TWC Commissioner Ronny Congleton presents a \$1.3 Million Skills Development grant to representatives from McLennan Community College and a manufacturing consortium. Pictured from left: Front row—Behlen Manufacturing Human Resources Manager Madeline Blanchard, MCC President Dr. Johnette McKown, Commissioner Congleton, Romark Logistics of Texas Human Resources Manager Lee Sanders. Back row--Behlen Manufacturing Plant Manager Gary Lewis, Sonoco Flexible Packaging Plant Manager Rick Brzezinski, Caterpillar Logistics Operations Manager Bob Spencer, UT-Arlington Aramark HR Manager Sarah Elliott.

Photo Courtesy McLennan College

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“Our Skills Development Fund grants serve everyone well,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Workers get the specialized training they need and the communities benefit from a more highly skilled workforce.”

From the program’s inception in 1996 through 2014, Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 316,000 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 4,074 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature allocated nearly \$48 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2014-15 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at www.texasworkforce.org/skills.

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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 services it offers in coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.