

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Spectrum Brands, Wilson N. Jones Regional Medical Center Partner with Grayson College for \$584,670 in Job-Training Grants

AUSTIN – Spectrum Brands and the Wilson N. Jones Regional Medical Center have partnered with Grayson College to provide job training for 420 new and incumbent workers using two Skills Development Fund grants totaling \$584,670 from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grants will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Texoma area.



Top photo: TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade presents a \$169,871 Skills Development Fund grant to representatives from Spectrum Brands/Kwikset.

From left: Spectrum Brands Plant Manager Chris Johansen, Grayson College President Dr. Jeremy McMillen, Commissioner Andrade, Spectrum Brands Senior Manager for Human Resources Diane Bielman.

Bottom Photo: Commissioner Andrade presents a \$414,799 Skills Development Fund grant to representatives from the Wilson N. Jones Regional Medical Center.

From left: Wilson N. Jones Director of Surgical Services Justin Mullens, Grayson College President Dr. Jeremy McMillen, Wilson N. Jones Administrator Kitty Richardson, Commissioner Andrade, Wilson N. Jones Director of Women's Services Melia Moore, Wilson, N. Jones Vice President for Human Resources Tammy Johnson, Wilson N. Jones Director of Critical Care Trish Bridges, Wilson N. Jones Director of Cardiovascular Telemetry Mandy O'Brien.

Photo courtesy of Grayson College

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Spectrum Brands will custom train 108 new and incumbent workers using a \$169,871 Skills Development Fund grant. With a focus on lean manufacturing, Spectrum Brands has begun cost saving initiatives throughout the company, including training for technical and non-technical skills. Training will include lean skills, basic computing, production safety and preventative maintenance to meet production and technology demands. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$23.15.

The Wilson N. Jones Regional Medical Center will use a \$414,799 Skills Development Fund grant to create or upgrade 312 jobs. In the past few years, the medical center has experienced significant patient growth and seeks to cross-train personnel to meet hospital needs. Training and certifications will include nursing, respiratory therapists, physician assistants and the maintenance team. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$33.27.

“These Skills Development Fund grants reflect an important partnership forged between Grayson College and two major employers in this region,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade. “This collaboration is about ensuring these Texas employers have the workforce they need to grow while providing employees the opportunity to advance their skill sets.”

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.