

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

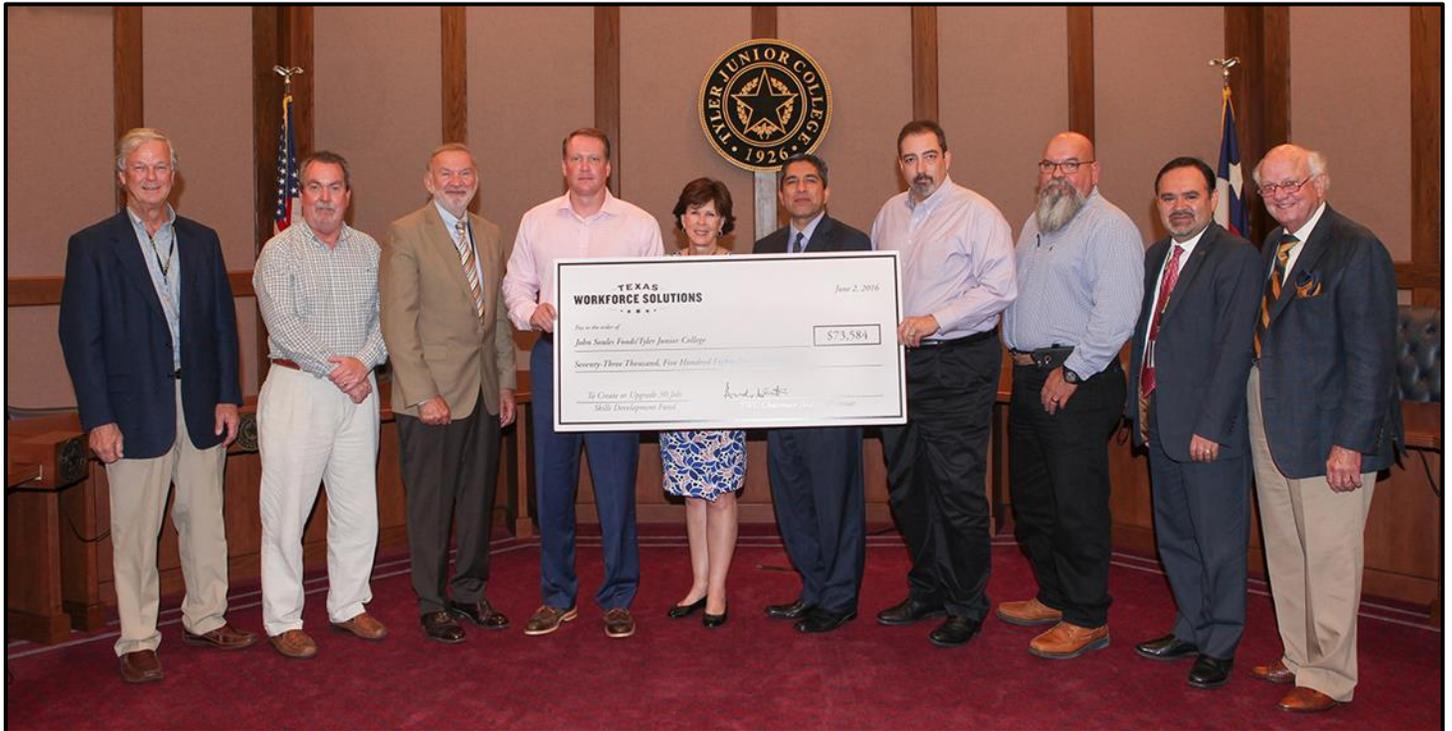
**DATE:** June 2, 2016

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## **John Soules Foods Partners with Tyler Junior College for \$73,584 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – John Soules Foods, Inc. partnered with Tyler Junior College (TJC) to provide job training for 30 new and incumbent workers using a \$73,584 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions East Texas area.



TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar presented a \$73,584 Skills Development Fund grant to representatives from John Soules Foods and Tyler Junior College.

Pictured from left: Tyler Junior College (TJC) Trustee John Hills; Mike Rostis, John Soules Foods Human Resources Director; TJC President Dr. Mike Metke; John Soules Foods co-CEO John Soules Jr.; TJC Board President Ann Brookshire; Chairman Alcantar; John Soules Foods Director of Operations Shane Butler; John Soules Foods Maintenance Manager Gus Garza; TJC Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs Dr. Juan Mejia; TJC Dean of Continuing Studies Dr. Aubrey Sharpe.

*Photo courtesy of Tyler Junior College*

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Texas Workforce Commission ☐ 512-463-8942 ☐ [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org) ☐ Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

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## Training Grant

This grant will be used to provide customized training to 30 new and incumbent workers for industry-related topics with focused instruction on industry-related topics such as hydraulics, pneumatics, circuit analysis, preventative maintenance, Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC) and industrial safety. Trainees will include electricians, refrigeration technicians, machine and maintenance mechanics, and welders. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$20.06.

“Skills grants deliver customized training solutions that help Texas employers and workers succeed in the marketplace,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “This investment builds not only employee skills, but the capabilities of our community colleges to the benefit of employers and the community. We are pleased to make this investment.”

The Skills Development Fund grant program is celebrating 20 years of success as the state’s premier training program in 2015-16. The fund was initiated by the Legislature in September of 1995 and first began awarding contracts in 1996. During that time the Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 329,333 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 4,141 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature allocated \$48.5 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2016-17 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at [www.texasworkforce.org/skills](http://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](http://www.texasworkforce.org). To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our email updates.*