

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coca-Cola Refreshments USA, Texas State Technical College Partner for \$681,114 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – Coca-Cola Refreshments USA Inc. has partnered with Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Waco to provide job training using a \$681,114 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas area.

“These grants are wonderful opportunities for industry leaders and local community colleges to work together to bring high-demand job skills to the local workforce, benefiting job seekers, employers and our community,” said state Rep. Charles “Doc” Anderson.



TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs makes a \$681,114 Skills Development Fund check presentation to representatives from Coca-Cola Refreshments USA (Coca Cola) and Texas State Technical College (TSTC Waco) on July 18, 2016. Pictured from left are: TSTC Waco Executive Vice President of Industry Relations Bob Livingston, TSTC Waco Executive Vice Chancellor and Chief Operating Officer Elton Stuckly, TSTC Waco Executive Director of Workforce Training John Doshier, Coca Cola Trainer Laura Lowrie, TWC Commissioner Hughs, Coca Cola Continuous Improvement Manager John Wilson, TSTC Waco Senior Executive Director of Workforce Training Ken Buchanan, and TSTC Waco Project Manager for Indirect Cost Instruction Kenneth Guenat.

Photo Courtesy Texas State Technical College

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This grant will be used to provide customized training to 277 new and incumbent hires in electrical theory and drawings, advanced programmable logic controller, laser safety and mechanical drives. Trainees will include inventory control clerks, production operators, maintenance mechanics, instrumentation technicians, quality assurance technicians, forklift operators, packers, palletizers and labelers. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$21.36.

“This partnership with Coca-Cola Refreshments USA, Inc. and TSTC will focus on advanced technical training to support employee efficiency, retention and safety,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. “We are pleased to present this grant which will create new employment opportunities for the Waco area.”

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.

TSTC contact: Creative Services Division Manager Brad White, 254-867-3035 or Bradley.white@tstc.edu.

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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. To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our [email updates](#).