

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **AT&T, Manufacturing Consortium and El Centro College Partner for \$2M in Job-Training Grants**

AUSTIN – AT&T Services Inc. and a Manufacturing Consortium have partnered with El Centro College to provide job training using two Skills Development Fund grants totaling \$2,061,753 from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grants will benefit the [Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas](#) area.

AT&T Services Inc. will provide customized training to 425 new hires for industry-related topics using a \$1,180,988 Skills Development Fund grant. Focused instruction will include training in fiber and television installation, internet protocol and digital subscriber line installation, U-verse fundamentals and mobility solutions services. Trainees will include premises technicians and customer service representatives. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$19.19.



TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs makes a Skills Development Fund check presentation to representatives from AT&T Services Inc. and El Centro College on July 26, 2016. Pictured from left to right: El Centro College President Dr. Jose Adames, AT&T Services Manager Brent McDaniel, TWC Commissioner Hughs, AT&T Services Manager Catherine Morgan, and El Centro College Chancellor Dr. Joe May.

*Photo Courtesy El Centro College*

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A Manufacturing Consortium consisting of American Leather Operations, Cott Beverages Corporation, Morrison Products Inc. and Staples Inc. will provide custom training to 492 incumbent and new workers for industry-related topics using a \$880,765 Skills Development Fund grant. Focused instruction will include food safety, bottling filling technology, forklift operations, furniture manufacturing, press equipment, labeling and electrical maintenance. Trainees will include framers, padders, machine operators, maintenance technicians, material handlers, production operators, quality technicians, press operators and composition and tooling coordinators. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$18.70.



TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughes makes a Skills Development Fund check presentation to representatives from American Leather Operations, Cott Beverages Corp, Morrison Products, Inc., Staples, Inc.. and El Centro College on July 26, 2016. Pictured from left to right are: Jasmine Banks, Dan Kekich, Billie Tyzbir, Rob McPhail, TWC Commissioner Hughes, El Centro College Chancellor Dr. Joe May, El Centro College President Dr. Jose Adames, Alton Berry, and Mitch Young.

*Photo Courtesy El Centro College*

“The partnership with AT&T, American Leather Operations, Cott Beverages Corporation, Morris Products, Inc., Staples Inc., and El Centro College facilitates advanced skill training for high-demand occupations and growth in the telecommunications and manufacturing industry,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughes. “We are pleased to present this grant which will create new employment opportunities for the Dallas area.”

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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. A Manufacturing Consortium consisting of American Leather Operations, Cott Beverages Corporation, Morrison Products Inc. and Staples Inc. will provide custom training to 492 incumbent and new workers for industry-related topics using a \$880,765 Skills Development Fund grant. Focused instruction will include food safety, bottling filling technology, forklift operations, furniture manufacturing, press equipment, labeling and electrical maintenance. Trainees will include framers, padders, machine operators, maintenance technicians, material handlers, production operators, quality technicians, press operators and composition and tooling coordinators. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$18.70.

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](#).*