

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Givens**

**DATE: August 7, 2015**

**PHONE: 512-463-8556**

## **Northwest Texas Healthcare System, BSA Health System Partner with Amarillo College for \$554,785 Job Training Grant**

AUSTIN – Northwest Texas Healthcare System, Inc. and Baptist St. Anthony’s Health System (BSA) have partnered with Amarillo College (AC) to provide custom job training for 246 incumbent workers using a \$554,785 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Panhandle area.

The workers will gain advance knowledge of healthcare related topics with focused instruction on critical care, cardiac life, trauma care, surgical and neonatal intensive care nursing training. Training will be provided in a simulated hospital environment to increase the skill and competency of hospital staff in specialty areas. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$32.63.



TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar presents a \$554,785 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Amarillo College and Northwest Texas Healthcare System Inc. (NWTHS) and Baptist Saint Anthony’s Health System (BSA).

Pictured from left are: Amarillo College Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Deborah Vess, BSA Vice-President of Human Resources Cheryl Jones, BSA Senior Vice-President of Patient Services and Chief Nursing Officer Belinda Gibson, Chairman Alcantar, NWTHS Chief Nursing Officer Valerie Kiper, NWTHS Chief Operating Officer John McDonald, Amarillo College Associate Dean of Health Sciences Kim Crowley, Legislative Assistant for state Sen. Kel Seliger Gina Dowdy and Amarillo College President Dr. Russell Lowery-Hart.

*Photo courtesy of Amarillo College*

-more-

Texas Workforce Commission ☎512-463-8942 ☐www.texasworkforce.org ☐Equal Opportunity Employer/Program

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

Relay Texas: 800-735-2988 (TDD) or 711 (Voice)

“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.”

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](http://www.texasworkforce.org/skills).

Amarillo College contact: M. J. Coats, marketing consultant, 806-206-7347 (cell), 806-345-5512 (office) or [mcoats@actx.edu](mailto:mcoats@actx.edu)

###dhp

*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](#).*