

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: October 28, 2015

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Epic Piping Partners with Austin Community College for \$1.7M Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – Epic Piping Inc. has partnered with Austin Community College (ACC) to provide job training for 554 new workers using a \$1,715,434 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Rural Capital area.

This grant will be used to provide custom training to 554 new workers for industry related topics with focused instruction on blueprint reading, fabrication, pipefitting, welding, tacking, and x-ray safety. Trainees will include blasters, electricians, forklift operators, painters, tackers, welders and x-ray technicians.

Upon successful completion of training, trainees will have an opportunity for certification from the American Welding Society, National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators Forklift, National Center for Construction Education and Research Electrical and NCCER Pipefitting. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$17.75.



TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar presents a \$1.7M Skills Development Fund grant check to Austin Community College and Epic Piping Inc. on Oct. 27, 2015. Pictured with Chairman Alcantar are the EPIC team & family and San Marcos Mayor Daniel Guerrero, Epic Piping Inc. President Kent Shepherd, President & CEO Austin Community College Dr. Richard Rhodes, Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area Executive Director James Satterwhite and Executive Dean CE Division Austin Community College Dr. Hector Aguilar.

Photo courtesy of Austin Community College

“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.

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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](#).