

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Manufacturing and Wholesale Trade Consortium Partners with Grayson College for \$291,359 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – A manufacturing and wholesale trade consortium has partnered with Grayson College to provide job training for 170 new and incumbent workers using a \$291,359 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The consortium consists of Denison Industries, Douglass Distributing, Presco Polymers and Sunny Delight Beverages. The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Texoma area.

This grant will be used to provide custom training to 170 new and incumbent workers for industry related topics with focused instruction on electricity; blue print reading; industrial maintenance; machining, heating, venting and air-conditioning (HVAC); and programmable logic controllers. Trainees will include mechanics, electricians, computer controlled machine operators, industrial engineers, maintenance technicians and site supervisors.



TWC Director of Employer Initiatives Aaron Demerson presents a Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Grayson College and a manufacturing and wholesale consortium on November 16, 2015. Pictured from left to right: Denison Industries Operations Manager Chris Towery, Denison Industries Manufacturing Engineer Bryan Petty, Aaron Demerson, Douglass Distributing Human Resource Manager Tamra Bragg, Presco Polymers Human Resource Manager Tammy Watkins, Sunny Delight Beverages Plant Manager Melissa Purvis, Grayson College Vice-President Student Services Dr. Regina Organ, Workforce Solutions Texoma Technology Manager Terrence Steele and Grayson College Training Coordinator Teri Fine.

Photo courtesy of Grayson College

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Upon successful completion of training, trainees will have an opportunity for a HVAC certification. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$22.34.

“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.

Grayson College contact: Public Relations Director Shelle Cassell, 903-436-8628 or cassells@grayson.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](#).