

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Del Mar College Partners with voestalpine Texas for \$192,376 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – Del Mar College has partnered with voestalpine Texas LLC to provide job training to new workers using a \$192,376 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) that will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend area.



TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs presents a \$192,376 Skills Development Fund grant to Del Mar College and voestalpine Texas LLC. From left: voestalpine Material Handling Foremen Jerry Jaimes, Jacob Sanchez and Brad Mellert; Del Mar College President Dr. Mark Escamilla; TWC Commissioner Hughs; Del Mar College Interim Dean of Workforce Programs and Corporate Services Daniel Korus; Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend Chief Executive Officer Ken Trevino; Del Mar College Grants Coordinator Musanna Al-Muntasir; Del Mar College Director of Corporate Services Kiwana Denson; Del Mar College Director of Corporate Services Mary Afuso; Del Mar College Coordinator for Corporate Services Michelle Avalos; voestalpine Head of Communications and Public Relations and Controlling & Tax Manager Jonas Chupe; voestalpine Human Resources Manager Luis Cabrera; and voestalpine material handling foreman Jesse Obrego.

*Photo courtesy Del Mar College*

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This grant will be used to provide custom training to 135 new workers for industry-related instruction on crane and lift operations, control systems, hot briquetted iron instrumentation and material handling systems. Trainees will include material handlers, process production personnel, laboratory technicians, maintenance workers, panel operators and warehouse staff. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$38.49.

“We are excited to award this grant from the Skills Development Fund to help meet an identified job-training need in the Portland community,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. “Through this collaboration, we are able to invest in our communities, stimulate job creation and provide higher wages.”

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](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](#).*