

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Klein Tools Honored as Small Employer of the Year at Texas Workforce Conference**

AUSTIN – Klein Tools Inc. of Mansfield was named Small Employer of the Year at the Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) 20th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held Dec. 7-9 in Houston. Klein Tools was nominated by Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County (Tarrant) and chosen as the Small Employer of the Year from among three exemplary finalists, out of 22 small, private-sector employers nominated. All nominees were recognized for contributions to their community’s workforce through innovation and collaboration with their local Texas Workforce Solutions network partner.



On Dec. 9, Klein Tools Inc. was named Texas Workforce Solutions 2016 Small Employer of the Year at the Texas Workforce Conference. Pictured are representatives from Klein Tools and TWC Commissioners.

Klein Tools is the global leader among hand tool manufacturers. The company’s Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center, located in Mansfield, began operating in 2011. Today, Klein Tools employs over 400 people at its two manufacturing facilities in Mansfield.

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“I commend all 22 businesses that were considered for this year’s Small Employer of the Year award,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “Klein Tools represents a group of outstanding candidates. Congratulations to Klein Tools for their exemplary work among their peers and within the Tarrant County area.”

Klein Tools began developing a relationship with Tarrant before it broke ground on its Mansfield facility. After working with Tarrant to meet its initial hiring needs, Klein Tools continued to partner with Tarrant to recruit and hire candidates through WorkInTexas.com, hiring fairs, and Workforce Solutions offices in Tarrant County.

Klein Tools promotes and provides training opportunities leading to manufacturing careers within the community. Klein Tools was awarded a TWC Skills Development Fund grant and partnered with Tarrant County College in March 2016 to train 130 new workers for manufacturing jobs. The company also provided industry tours for trainees and other young adults interested in manufacturing careers.

“Klein Tools employment endeavors help drive the Texas economy,” said Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. “TWC is honored to recognize and congratulate Klein Tools for their continued support of workforce initiatives.”

Additionally, Klein Tools is a leading member of the Mansfield Manufacturing Partnership with Tarrant, the Mansfield Economic Development Corp. and the Mansfield Independent School District working to address a shortage of computer numeric controlled machinists. The partnership provides a training program that develops skilled manufacturing employees and internship opportunities with local manufacturing companies.

“Employees often cite the best workplaces as those that encourage and support training,” said Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. “Klein Tools has shown consistently their commitment to enhancing the local workforce and communities.”

Klein Tools is also an active member of the Mansfield Chamber of Commerce and Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce. The company supports local charities, including the American Heart Association Heart Walk for Tarrant County, Mansfield Cares and the Wesley Mission Center.

“It is an honor to receive the Small Employer of the Year award from the Texas Workforce Commission. We have worked closely with Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County and are excited to continue our participation in the Mansfield Manufacturing Partnership training program, that develops skilled manufacturing employees,” said Klein Tools Director Michael Klein.

Additionally, two other exemplary employers were finalists for Texas Workforce Solutions Small Employer of the Year:

- **Falls Community Hospital and Clinic (FCHC)** was nominated by Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas (Heart of Texas). FCHC—a 36-bed, nonprofit primary and emergency health care facility—employs 175 people who care for more than 18,000 citizens from Falls County, Robertson County and surrounding rural areas. FCHC’s success is due to its commitment to hiring and retaining highly trained and qualified employees in partnership with TWC, Heart of Texas and local educational institutions. FCHC works closely with Heart of Texas and has hired all of its new employees through the WorkInTexas.com job matching tool, job fairs and direct referrals.

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In 2015, TWC awarded over \$1 million in Skills Development Fund grants to a health care consortium that includes FCHC. FCHC used its funding to partner with McLennan Community College to train 150 new and existing employees serving in roles as department managers, radiology technicians, X-ray technicians, medical assistants and nurses. FCHC also partnered with the college to upgrade the skills of 63 of its employees—one-third of its total workforce—and will hire and train an additional six employees. In addition to being one of the area's top employers, a driving force in rural health care excellence and a significant contributor to the local economy, FCHC promotes a healthier community by offering free CPR training opportunities and health fairs staffed by employee volunteers and local partners.

- **State Farm® Agent Samuel Garcia** (Garcia) was nominated by Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas. Three employees staff the agency that for the past 20 years has helped Texans manage their finances and risks by offering banking, retirement and insurance services. In 2008, the company helped West Central launch the Career Pathway program within the Abilene Independent School District. Career Pathway helps high school students transition to employment after graduation. The program received a Service to Community Award at the 2009 Texas Workforce Conference and TWC currently provides funding to all local workforce development boards to support similar career programs.

Known as a leader within the community, Garcia also contributes hundreds of hours annually to help business and educational organizations achieve their workforce missions. Garcia has donated more than \$130,000 to assist community organizations, give scholarships to local schools, and support business and community events during the past 20 years. The business has sponsored youth little league teams and several community events and nonprofit organizations that provide services, which include child care and meals for homebound individuals.

Each of the 28 local workforce development boards recognized a Local Employer of Excellence at the conference. The award honors an employer that is actively involved with Texas Workforce Solutions and has made a positive impact on employers, workers and the community.

Awards also were granted to local workforce development boards that provided outstanding services to Texas employers, workers, job-seekers and local communities. Additionally, monetary awards were given to the boards that were recognized for outstanding performance. Monetary awards will be used to enhance board service programs during the next year.

The primary goal of TWC and its Workforce Solutions board partners is to respond to the needs of Texas employers through locally-designed, market-driven workforce development initiatives and services. All employers, workers and job seekers are eligible to take advantage of these services.

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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](#).*