

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Health Care, Manufacturing Consortiums Partner with McLennan Community College for Nearly \$2M in Job-Training Grants

AUSTIN – Health Care and Manufacturing consortiums have partnered with McLennan Community College to provide job training for 2,827 new and incumbent workers using two Skills Development Fund grants totaling \$1,991,511 from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grants will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas area.



On Nov. 23 TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton (right of check) presented a \$973,756 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Brookhaven College and a consortium of electrical contractors. From left: McLennan Community College President Johnette McKown; Central Texas Corrugated Plant PCA General Manager Mark Vera; Packaging Corporation of America Waco Plant General Manager Jeff Slick; Cargill Turkey Productions Human Resource Generalist Christopher Goldsby and Commissioner Congleton.

Photo courtesy of McLennan College

On Nov. 23 TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton (right of check) presented a \$1,011,407 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from McLennan Community College and a consortium of health care providers. From left: McLennan Community College President Johnette McKown; Fall Community Hospital and Clinic Administrator Willis Reece; Providence Healthcare Network Director of Education and Organizational Development Lori Mexia; Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Vice President of Operations David Blackwell and Commissioner Congleton.

Photo courtesy of McLennan College



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The Health Care Consortium consisting of Providence Healthcare Network, Baylor Scott & White Hillcrest Medical Center and Falls Community Hospital & Clinic Inc. will create or upgrade 2,295 jobs using a \$1,011,407 Skills Development Fund grant. The grant will be used to provide specialized training to increase nursing field skills proficiency and increased focus on critical and trauma care. Those trained will include registered nurses, health technicians and healthcare practitioners. Upon completion of the training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$28.43.

The Manufacturing Consortium consisting of Cargill Turkey Production LLC, Central Texas Corrugated PCA and Packaging Corporation of America Waco plant will create or upgrade 532 jobs using a \$980,104 Skills Development Fund grant. The grant will be used to provide specialized training to prepare workers for increased industrial maintenance skills, improved safety maintenance focus and improved computer skills. Those trained will include maintenance technicians, production workers and machine operators. Upon completion, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$18.45.

“Our Skills Development Fund grants serve everyone well,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Workers get the specialized training they need and the communities benefit from a more highly skilled workforce.”

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](#).