

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: February 25, 2015

MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Givens

PHONE: 512- 463-8556

Manufacturing Consortium Partners with Angelina College for \$517,421 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – A manufacturing consortium is partnering with Angelina College to provide job training using a \$517,421 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The consortium includes Lockheed Martin Corp., Georgia-Pacific Wood Products LLC, and Georgia-Pacific Panel Products LLC.

The grant will be used to provide custom training to 349 incumbent workers in business-and-industry focused instruction, to include equipment care, forklift operation and maintenance, welding, power transmission, basic computer skills, workplace safety, and nontechnical training in business report writing.



TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar presents a \$517,421 Skills Development Fund Grant to representatives of Angelina College and an area manufacturing consortium. Pictured from left: Georgia Pacific Director of Human Resources Jim Cumbie; Angelina College President Dr. Larry Phillips, Chairman Alcantar; Lockheed-Martin Test Engineering Manager Justin McKenzie, Angelina College Vice President of Community Services Dr. Fred Kanke, Angelina College Workforce Development Coordinator Janice Huffman, Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas Executive Director Marilyn Hartsook and Angelina College Director of Technology/Workforce Division Dr. Gary Friery.

Photo courtesy Angelina College Press/Gary Stallard

- more -

Those trained will include manufacturing engineers and technicians, forklift operators, and line tenders. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$20.97 and some trainees may be eligible for the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's 10-hour general industry and forklift operator certifications.

“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.”

From the program's inception in 1996 through 2014, Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 316,000 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 4,074 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature allocated nearly \$48 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2014-15 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at www.texasworkforce.org/skills.

College contact: Gary Stallard, Office of Marketing and Development, gstallard@angelina.edu, 936-633-5344

###dhp

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.