

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AT&T, Technical Education Advancement for Manufacturers Consortium Partner with El Centro College for \$2.1 Million in Job-Training Grants

AUSTIN – AT&T Services Inc. and the Technical Education Advancement for Manufacturers (TEAM) consortium have partnered with El Centro Community College to provide job training for 1,131 new and incumbent workers using two Skills Development Fund grants totaling \$2,106,398 from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grants will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas area.

AT&T Services Inc. will create 400 jobs using a \$999,704 Skills Development Fund grant. The grant will be used to provide specialized training for the use of highly technical tools and equipment to entry-level premises technicians. Upon completion of the training, trainees will enter a telecommunications career pathway at AT&T and will earn an average hourly wage of \$18.61.



On Monday March 2, TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar presented two checks totaling \$2,106,398 to representatives from El Centro College, AT&T and the TEAM consortium. These grants will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas area.

Pictured from left: El Centro College Director of Solutions Development George Laffoon, Texas State Representative Morgan Meyer, AT&T Project Manager Catherine Morgan, Chancellor Dr. Joe May, Chairman Alcantar, El Centro College President Dr. Jose Adames, Mary Kay Representative Simone Hilder, Mary Kay Representative Scott Fitzsimmons, Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas Executive Director Laurie Bouillion Larrea, Performance POP Account Manager Gina Williams

Photo courtesy of El Centro College

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Six Dallas County business partners comprise the TEAM consortium and will create or upgrade 731 jobs using a \$1,106,694 Skills Development Fund grant. The consortium includes Manda Machine Inc. with APD TotalSource, Mary Kay Inc., Paragon Industries LP, PO Management GP LLC with Performance Companies LP, Rolland Safe & Lock Co. LLC, and SVC Manufacturing Inc. The grant will be used to provide specialized training to prepare workers for the implementation of new product and manufacturing lines, and growth and technology advancements. Those trained will include process and production line technicians, fulfillment coordinators, equipment operators, and production and warehouse workers. Upon completion of the training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$21.94.

“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.

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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.