

A photograph of two workers in a rocky environment. In the foreground, a worker wearing a yellow hard hat and safety glasses is holding a small, dark, irregular rock sample. In the background, another worker wearing a yellow hard hat and sunglasses is looking towards the right. The background consists of large, grey, jagged rock formations.

# Solutions

Summer 2013

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## Inside

- 4 | Fast track programs lead to success
- 6 | College Credit For Heroes program expands
- 8 | GeoFORCE Rocks!
- 9 | TWC assists West recovery

# in this issue



**On the cover:** Students George Ayala (left) and Lyndon Diongzon (right) at the Uvalde Asphalt Quarry, operated by Vulcan Materials, learn theories on how asphalt could have formed naturally in the Anacacho Formation. *Photo courtesy of University of Texas School of Geology*

**Fast track classes** 4  
Community Colleges across the state offering programs to get people trained quickly

**College Credit For Heroes** 6-7  
Successful program expanding to other colleges and universities

**GeoFORCE educates kids** 8  
Students learn about STEM careers at summer camp program

**Adult Basic Education** 9  
Texas Workforce Commission to oversee adult literacy program

**TWC employee earns award** 10  
Star Award given for outstanding service at agency

## Texas Workforce Commission

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# Partnerships fuel educational opportunities

Training programs prepare workers to enter the workforce, gain higher-paying employment



I am proud to be part of a workforce system that educates and trains workers so they can realize their full potential in solid careers with good pay. The partnership of TWC with the workforce development boards, education providers, businesses, and economic development and community groups makes this possible.

Our education and training programs prepare workers to enter the workforce and to move on to more skilled, higher-paying careers that will provide a comfortable living for years to come. The goal is to maximize working people's job skills, whether through basic education or advanced training and education.

We have the benefit of a range of programs to address these goals. The Adult Basic Education program presents opportunities to enhance participants' ability to enter and stay in the workforce. Apprenticeship, combining paid on-the-job training with classroom instruction, allows entry into a high-wage skilled trade or craft while avoiding student debt. Skills programs, geared toward the needs of local employers, train new workers and upgrade the skills of current workers.

There are good reasons to put our efforts into

increasing the education and skills of working Texans.

When able to meet the requirements for work in well-paying, growing fields of employment, individuals increase their incomes and the well-being of their families. Improvement for one group of workers leads to improvements for all. People who have secure, high-paying jobs can spend more, increasing the demand for goods and services offered by all the other businesses in the area, which, in turn, leads to increased job opportunities in those businesses. The cumulative effect improves individual lives, the business climate, and the economy throughout the area.

All of the individuals who dedicate their good efforts – as employees of TWC, or Workforce Solutions offices, or of a school district, ABE provider, community college, technical school, or extension service – can be proud that their work is actively improving the economy of their areas and of the state. ■

Ronny Congleton  
Commissioner Representing Labor



San Jacinto College truck driving student Jihad Altawwal inspects the tires of one of the training vehicles on campus. *Photo courtesy San Jacinto College*

## Training programs put careers in the fast lane

By Shannon Thomas

Lone Star College fast track graduate Jesse Roth wanted a job where he could get his hands dirty.

The 35-year-old recently decided to make a career change, and wanted to “find something honest, something with dignity, where I felt like I was really earning my living,” he said.

Roth was attracted to the oil and gas industry, but needed to get trained quickly to get into the field.

“I had bills to pay and enough money saved up to make it 10 more weeks,” Roth said.

Roth turned those 10 weeks into a lucrative career in the oil and gas industry by enrolling in one of Lone Star College’s fast track programs titled “Drilling & Exploration Core Skills.” He finished up the class in July and quickly was offered a job as a drill hand with Sidewinder Drilling Inc. working in the Eagle Ford Shale area.

“I plan to continue on this career path for the foreseeable future,” Roth said. “It’s a great job and I’m able to earn a good living.”

Community colleges across the state are responding quickly to employer needs and industry demands for skilled

workers by offering fast track courses in a variety of industries, including oil and gas, medical, manufacturing, welding, and truck driving.

Fast-track training programs, many of which are federally funded through the Wagner-Peyser and Workforce Investment Act programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, are designed to put people to work quickly.

“Our job at community colleges is to develop the workforce that employers need,” said Linda Head, associate vice chancellor of the Workforce Development and Corporate College at Lone Star College serving the greater Houston area. “Community colleges need to look at repackaging competency-based education in a different way.”

To accomplish this, Lone Star College has invested \$20 million into its “Energy & Manufacturing Institute,” a two-level, 80,000-square-foot facility. The institute partners with local industry in preparing students for careers in automation, upstream oil and gas operations/manufacturing, machining, logistics engineering technology, and welding. Programs such as those boast nearly a 100 percent career placement rate after graduation.

Other fast-track programs across the state are seeing great success. At Cisco College, six recent fast track welding classes produced 79 graduates, 80 percent of whom have gone on to gain employment in the industry. According to Steve Collins, business resource consultant for Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas, all the graduates received their safety certification, and the average pass rate for all welding tests for the latest class was 90 percent. Funding for the program was made possible through a partnership with local employers and contributions from the Development Corp. of Abilene.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area (Capital Area) is a part of a multi-state consortium that was recently awarded an \$11.8 million U. S. Department of Labor grant for a fast track workforce training research study called Accelerating Connections to Employment (ACE). The ACE consortium is developing a measurable way to help low-skilled individuals build basic and occupational skills and enter into sustainable employment. Capital Area has partnered with Austin Community College to offer individuals an opportunity to participate in the program.

“The ACE program allows students and trainees to gain both basic and occupational skills in one classroom setting over an eight-week period,” said Tiffany Daniels, Capital Area public information officer. The two certificate training programs offered are Certified Nursing Aide + Acute Care Skills and Administrative Assistant. ACE is currently enrolling participants in the Austin-area.

At San Jacinto College (SJC) in Pasadena, students can access condensed credit and non-credit courses and programs to quickly enter industries with high employment demand, including oil and gas, healthcare, real estate and HVAC. Plans for a fast track class for pipefitting fabricators began in early spring, and by this fall, SJC will be offering the class to its students.

“Some of our fast track classes allow students to take coursework that will incrementally build toward a degree,” said Catherine O’Brien, associate vice-chair for learning at SJC. “Our systems are more flexible and adaptable, which allows us to respond quickly to industry demand.” ■

# Employers, boards aid recovery in West

## Job fairs held to help workers affected by plant explosion

By Mark Lavergne

On April 17, 2013, a friend told Ashley Hale to turn on the news. Hale had recently begun a new job as a nursing recruiter for Providence Healthcare Network in Waco.

The news was reporting an explosion at a fertilizer plant in West, a small town about 20 miles north of Waco, and home to a famous Czech bakery that's a favorite stop for road trippers. From that bakery a mushroom cloud could be seen, the result of ammonium nitrate combustion causing the explosion that killed more than a dozen people including firefighters on the scene, and destroyed a nearby apartment complex, the plant, and the West Rest Haven nursing home.

"The next day at work we started calling people in West," Hale recalled. "We were ready to do anything we could to help this community rebuild by finding work for those who lost their jobs as a result of the explosion."

In addition to stepping up to provide care for those impacted by the explosion, Providence was one of dozens of employers who participated in two job fairs in the weeks following the disaster to help workers who lost their jobs as a result of the blast.

Workforce Solutions Heart of Texas (Heart of Texas) sponsored the fairs, which were held on April 29 at Nors Sausage and Burger House, and May 22 at Knights of Columbus Hall, both in West. More than 30 employers attended.

"We can't thank all the employers who came out enough," said Rene Clayton, manager of business, community and industry initiatives and rapid response coordinator for Heart of Texas. "They gave opportunities to a lot of people who were just trying to figure out where to go from here."

Immediately after the explosion, Workforce Solutions North Central Texas sent a Mobile Workforce Unit to the Knights Hall to enable those affected by the blast to sign up for unemployment benefits and search for new employment through WorkInTexas.com.



Providence Healthcare Network in Waco attended a job fair where representatives wore "Praying for West" T-shirts and stocked their table with goodies for job-seekers to take home with them. Providence Healthcare was one of nearly 30 employers attending the job fair, which was provided by Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas. Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions Heart of Texas

Providence Healthcare Network filled several openings with candidates found at the West job fairs, including several Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) positions.

"These fairs provided us with an avenue to reach all of the workers who were affected by the explosion," Hale said.

One CNA, who wished to remain anonymous, started working at West Rest Haven in June 2012. It was her first job. Because she was at the facility when the explosion occurred, she endured physical trauma and it took time to recover.

Once healed, she immediately began looking for new jobs and learned of the Heart of Texas job fairs for West's displaced workers from Hale. Ultimately, Providence hired her to continue working as a CNA.

"She and others, many of them from West Rest Haven, were the right fit for what we do at Providence," Hale said. "So it was particularly rewarding under these circumstances to be able to bring them in and give them the opportunity to continue to work and move on with their lives," Hale said.

"No one ever anticipates or wants to see what happened in West on April 17," Clayton said. "But when it does, you need people to step in and help those who are impacted to rebuild and ultimately continue to pursue their professional goals, and it's great when you actually get to see that starting to happen."

Heart of Texas continues to visit West twice a week to offer assistance to affected workers.

The Texas Workforce Commission extends sincerest condolences to all those affected by the tragedy in West on April 17, 2013. ■



Monica Moss, former U. S. Navy Reserves lieutenant commander and a recent graduate of Houston Community College's accelerated surgical technology program for veterans, performs a surgical procedure at the Texas Medical Center. *Photo courtesy Houston Community College*

## HEROES TAKING OFF

College Credit for Heroes  
initiative continues to grow,  
adds more partners

By **Laura Ybarra**

The Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) College Credit for Heroes initiative hit a major milestone in May when its second phase was launched, expanding current program offerings and adding six new partner schools for

a total of 11 participating colleges. Launched in 2011, the initiative develops streamlined degree paths and workforce certifications in order to expedite military veterans' transition into the Texas workforce. The new phase of the initiative will expand the program to other regions of the state and include development of accelerated curricula in a number of new career fields, such as information technology, firefighting, advanced manufacturing, logistics, wind engineering, and oil field technology.

Timothy Kennedy, a former corporal in the U. S. Marine Corps, is currently enrolled in a 12-week Fast Track Field Service Technician Marketable Skills award program offered at Lone Star College System (LSC) through the College Credit for Heroes initiative, which prepares student veterans for employment in the oil and gas industry.

"It is amazing to see that my military training is actually paying off," said Kennedy. "I already have these skills and am ready to apply them to a future career."

The first phase of the College Credit for Heroes initiative focused on developing accelerated curricula for student military veterans to earn associate degrees and certifications in allied health fields such as emergency medical services, surgical technology,

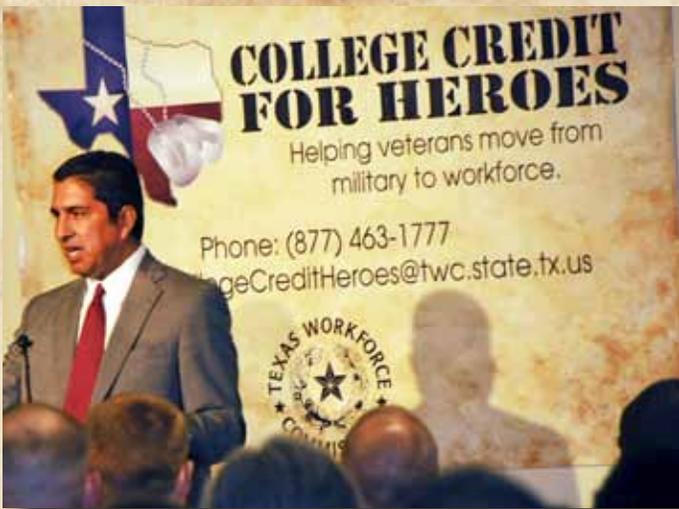
respiration therapy, and nursing. In addition to expanding the initiative to other colleges and fields of study, the new phase will also include the introduction of accelerated curricula for bachelor's and master's degree programs.

"I am proud that the College Credit for Heroes program has made significant progress toward rewarding Texas' military veterans with college credit for the experience and training gained through their service to our country," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "Expanding the initiative to include more educational partners and career pathways will enhance the academic and employment opportunities for our Texas heroes."

LSC outlined and reported the research findings of the Texas Inter-College Council on Veterans in the initiative's first phase, identifying and proposing solutions to barriers to employment and education facing student veterans. The Council consists of all seven of the pilot college participants: Alamo Colleges, Central Texas College, Houston Community College, Lee College, LSC, San Jacinto College, and Temple College. LSC's participation in the initiative continues to

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SUCCESS IS JUST WHAT  
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**-TINA DEALY  
PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
FOR LSC VETERAN  
AFFAIRS AND SERVICES**



TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar promotes the College Credit for Heroes program at a Central Texas College event last year. *Photo by TWC staff*

evolve in the second phase through the creation of the Fast Track Field Service Technician Marketable Skills award program in which Kennedy is enrolled.

“This kind of quick turnaround and success is just what a student needs to see that he or she can be successful in college,” said Tina Dealy, a former U.S. Air Force and Air National Guard staff sergeant and program coordinator for LSC Veteran Affairs and Services. “It also can help create a lifelong learner, which makes for a better employee and higher wages.”

The Fast Track Skills award program provides the students with credit courses in AC/DC circuits, hydraulics and pneumatics, motor control, and programmable controller classes that can also be applied to an associate’s degree. Students also may be able to apply their GI Bill educational benefits and receive housing allowances.

“I have the honor of teaching the smartest, most professional cohort of students that I have ever seen here at Lone Star College,” said Spiros Bamiatizis, the AC/DC instructor for the program. “They are the most willing bunch of American heroes. These students yearn for more and more knowledge on the subject of AC/DC circuitry, and they will be a true asset to the industry.”

According to Dealy, the award program has shown promising results.

“Nearly all of the 23 students in our pilot program were placed in jobs where they earn a median salary of \$72,000,” said Dealy. “The average person in the current program came out of the military with a rank of corporal, which means, at most, they made a base salary of less than \$30,000.”

LSC’s Fast Track Skills award program is just one example of how College Credit for Heroes improves opportunities for veterans. In addition to the seven pilot college partners, accelerated programs also are in development at Angelo State University, Austin Community College District, Dallas County Community College District, Grayson College,



Lone Star College student and former U. S. Air Force Senior Airman Steven Schmidt (right), learns valuable oil and gas industry skills along with his classmate Joseline Garcia (left), through the College Credit for Heroes Fast Track Engineering Technician Marketable Skills award certification program. *Photo courtesy Lone Star College System*

Tarrant County College District, and Texas State Technical College in Harlingen.

The initiative also launched [www.collegecreditforheroes.org](http://www.collegecreditforheroes.org) in 2012, a web-based application and database for veterans and service members to receive an official evaluation of credit that can be used at colleges and universities throughout the state. As of August 2013, the website had received more than 30,000 visits, and more than 17,000 service member and military veteran account holders requested more than 1,919 evaluations for college credit. Texas veterans who used the website have been awarded an average of 25 credit hours.

For a full list of academic opportunities available through College Credit for Heroes, visit: [www.collegecreditforheroes.org/ccfh](http://www.collegecreditforheroes.org/ccfh). ■



GeoFORCE students (from left to right) Joshua Barefield, Chauncey Williams, Jermaine Fosu and Chelsea Jenkins measure a beach profile in Florida every year to understand how barrier islands change over time. *Photo courtesy University of Texas at Austin School of Geology*

# Science rocks at GeoFORCE camp

By Laura Ybarra

More than 1,737 students are able to attend summer youth camps emphasizing science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines this year thanks in part to \$1.5 million in scholarship funds administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

The effort is part of the Governor's Summer Merit Program, which aims to inspire Texas youth to pursue careers in high-demand STEM-related fields. All camps are sponsored by Texas colleges and universities and allow students to experience life on a college campus.

The University of Texas at Austin's (UT) GeoFORCE camp is a longtime partner of the program, and received \$39,900 to help fund scholarships for 120 students this year.

"I believe GeoForce has certainly

prepared me for whatever career I choose to pursue because the program forces you to think outside the box and analyze things around you more closely," said Grace Egbo, a rising junior at Deakey High School for Health Professions and current GeoFORCE participant. "Moreover, it enables you to have better social skills since you are constantly surrounded by other people your own age."

Ann Merriman, program coordinator for UT's Jackson School of Geosciences' outreach department, said GeoFORCE began in 2005 at the urging of alumni concerned about the future workforce in the geosciences industry.

"The long-term goal of GeoFORCE is to increase the number and diversity of graduates entering STEM fields," said Merriman. "We do this by targeting

outreach to underserved schools with diverse student bodies in rural Southwest Texas and inner city Houston."

Merriman said GeoFORCE has demonstrated success at achieving program goals.

"GeoFORCE has graduated 546 students from our four-year program and has a 100 percent high school graduation rate, and 97 percent of our participants go on to college," said Merriman. "As of fall 2012, 64 percent of all GeoFORCE graduates also are declared STEM majors."

According to Merriman, GeoFORCE provides scholarships to more than 600 students every year to attend geologic field trips free of cost across Texas and the U.S. University faculty and research scientists teach topics such as the study of sedimentary processes, plate tectonics, geologic time, structural geology, and metamorphic rocks.

"GeoFORCE does not end when the students leave the field," said Merriman. "Mentoring continues through high school and college. We offer standardized testing preparation and help with college and financial aid applications. We also provide scholarships and internship opportunities for our graduates."

UT junior Ariel Hernandez, a GeoFORCE alumnus, became a GeoFORCE counselor this summer as a way to give back to the program he says greatly benefitted him.

"GeoFORCE enabled me to experience many firsts in my life, such as my first time flying on a plane, traveling outside of Texas, and being able to learn outside of school. I don't think that I would have done any of these things without GeoFORCE," said Hernandez. "Through the program, I was able to create a strong network of people that have helped me pursue my studies throughout the years."

Hernandez also has been able to remain debt free in college due to scholarship and grant opportunities, and has some words of wisdom to share with GeoFORCE participants and other students from lower-income families.

"If you have a dream that you want to follow, don't let anyone or anything get in your way," said Hernandez. "You will always find the light at the end of the tunnel. GeoFORCE was that light for me." ■

# TWC to oversee adult literacy program

By Debbie Pitts

Success in the workplace often depends on the knowledge and skills workers bring to their jobs. People who lack basic educational skills often find it difficult to acquire or maintain steady employment. Because employment and education are closely linked, the state's Adult Education and Literacy programs will soon come under the purview of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

"We are pleased that the Legislature has entrusted us with the oversight of these important programs," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "We are working closely with the Texas Education Agency to ensure a smooth transition and will work to build partnerships that leverage resources and enhance services."

According to the Texas Workforce Investment Council, approximately 4.3 million Texans qualified for adult education assistance in 2011—they were over age 16, not in school, did not graduate from high school or possess a GED credential, or could not speak, read, or write English proficiently.

Beginning in September, TWC will administer programs that provide vital instruction for these Texans. The programs provide English language proficiency support, basic academic and literacy skills, high school equivalency instruction, and civics training.

"Increasing literacy raises wages, and improves Texans' ability to get and keep jobs," said TWC Commissioner Representing

Labor Ronny Congleton. "We are eager to continue the good work that has already been done and find ways to improve delivery and access to these services."

Texas' current adult education system is delivered across independent school districts, colleges, education service centers, nonprofit and volunteer organizations, and employers, yet lacks focus on getting students educated and job-ready. Coordinating and leveraging resources for adult education is essential to providing adult education to more Texans and to improving the Texas workforce.

"We are very excited to work with everyone involved to continue and improve this program," said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade. "Improving workforce education increases the ability of Texas employers to compete with other states and countries."

Among the steps taken to facilitate the transition of the Adult Basic Education program from the Texas Education Agency to TWC included: a series of statewide stakeholder meetings and the hiring of an adult education director for TWC.

"The stakeholder meetings have been invaluable in hearing diverse local needs, ideas for innovative enhancements, and suggestions for improvements on the existing system," said Anson Green, TWC's new director of adult education. "This input has and will continue to be indispensable as we work to integrate and enhance adult education and literacy from within TWC's workforce development services." ■

## Consortium mobilizes on Cline Shale, West Texas exploration

By Mark Lavergne

The West Texas Energy Consortium has launched a collaborative campaign to advance workforce solutions in the Cline Shale play area and nearby regions where energy exploration has boomed. The consortium will identify common issues and challenges, and work together on solutions, with the goal of fostering and sustaining economic growth, meeting the needs of the energy industry, supporting community development, and preserving a high quality of life for all citizens.

Established by Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas (West Central Texas), Concho Valley and Permian Basin, the consortium will work with local community colleges to increase their capacity to train new workers and job seekers. The colleges will use a \$1.5 million Skills Development Fund grant

from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to expand their programs: adding safety training particular to the oil and gas industry, expanding current welding programs, expanding current Commercial Driver License programs, and more.

The consortium is serving as a forum for sharing information among industry representatives and partners, while working with eight community and technical colleges serving the region to develop coordinated workforce education and training strategies.

"We want to make sure skilled workers from within the region are ready for opportunities in the oil and gas industry," said Mary Ross, Executive Director for West Central Texas.

The consortium, previously named the Cline Shale Consortium, held its inaugural meeting on May 23 at McMurry University. Representatives

from TWC, Concho Valley, Permian Basin, Middle Rio Grande, and West Central Texas, as well as industry representatives, and higher education institutions, were in attendance to learn more about the impact of Cline Shale energy explorations, and to strategize economic development.

Presenting on the impact of the oil and gas industry in Texas, TWC's Director of Employer Initiatives Doug Ridge emphasized that regional leaders need to start planning now to meet training, transportation, and housing needs.

"There is a key role for everyone – the task is to manage the opportunity and create the region that you want, instead of the region you get," Ridge said.

More information about the Cline Shale and the Consortium can be found here: [http:// www.workforcesystem.org/clineshale](http://www.workforcesystem.org/clineshale). ■

## Project GROW provides training to border area

This summer, 61 Texas residents from the Texas-Mexico border region received workforce training free of charge due to the new Growing Regional Opportunities in the Workforce project (Project GROW).

Representatives from the five border-area Workforce Solutions boards (Cameron County, Lower Rio Grande Valley, Middle Rio Grande, South Texas, and Upper Rio Grande), partnered last year to create the Border Workforce Alliance (BWA) to better serve the area. Using feedback from area employers, BWA created a proposal and was awarded a \$5.9 million Workforce Innovation Fund grant from the U.S. Department of Labor to create Project GROW to address the region's workforce needs. BWA's proposal was one of only 26 grantees selected from more than 5,000 applicants nationwide.

Project GROW provides individuals who are Workforce Investment Act (WIA) eligible with the training opportunities and resources they need to earn entry-level credentials to become commercial drivers, medical receptionists, medical assistants, emergency care attendants (ECA), and construction workers. The program also provides Graduate Equivalency Degree (GED) and English as a Second Language (ESL) training to participants, if needed.

Project GROW also helps address barriers to training and employment by helping qualified participants access funds to pay for housing, transportation, and childcare assistance. The career credential programs also prepare students to enter the workforce in a short amount of time, lasting only two to six months depending

on the program and whether the student needs GED or ESL preparation.

The first class of Project GROW's GED preparation course had a 92 percent first attempt passing rate. Project GROW participants also receive college credit that can be applied toward an associate or bachelor's degree.

To learn more about the program, visit [www.bwapg.org](http://www.bwapg.org).

## TWC secures grant to assist displaced Cargill plant workers

In June, the U.S. Department of Labor announced that it was

granting a Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) request for up to \$2.1 million in National Emergency Grants (NEG) to assist workers displaced by the recent closure of the Cargill Meat Solutions Corp. (Cargill) plant in Plainview. An initial allocation of \$1.1 million has been made available and the remaining \$1 million will be authorized if there is a continued demonstrated need for assistance.

The funds will be used to provide training and re-employment services to help those who lost their jobs because of the plant closure. These services will help the displaced workers so that they can

## TWC employee receives Star award

Beatrice Barrera was awarded the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Star Award at a ceremony in July. The Star Award program honors individuals and groups for their outstanding contributions and services.

As part of TWC's Contract Services Department, Barrera serves as lead contract specialist for all Workforce Solutions Development Board Area formula contracts

and amendments, and also provides customer assistance for the electronic signature system. After seeing Board formula contracts' processing time reduced substantially following a rapid process improvement project, Barrera recommended that similar improvements could be applied to the formula contracts' amendment

process. She collaborated with agency employees across three divisions to develop and improve a new workflow, improving contract integrity and allowing for same-day execution. Additionally, Barrera worked with internal and external staff on the Board contracting process, and helped streamline and document procedures.

TWC Contract Services Director Marisela Ramirez nominated her for the award.

"Beatrice demonstrates the true meaning of teamwork, cooperation and collaboration," said Ramirez. "She has been commended by her peers and external customers for her attention to detail and quick response time."

The next Star Award recipient will be announced in Fall 2013.



Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chief of Staff Luis Macias (left) and Contract Services Director Marisela Ramirez (far right) present the TWC Star Award to Contract Specialist Beatrice Barrera (center) at a ceremony in July. *Photo by Laura Ybarra*



North Texas staff members who were presented with commemorative bricks to honor their military service, are pictured from left to right, Steve P. Wilson, Air Force; Tim L. Shatto, Marine Corps, retired; Alan “Casey” Barnes, Navy; David Dohme, Navy, who holds the brick for Larry F. Souza, National Guard, retired; Chuck J. Moore, Air Force, retired; and Bill Scantlin, Air Force, retired. *Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions North Texas*

transition to jobs in high-demand occupations in the South Plains region.

Cargill announced the plant’s closure in January and in early February, Workforce Solutions South Plains (South Plains) began assisting the dislocated workers. South Plains opened a New Opportunities Center in Plainview dedicated to helping Cargill workers find new jobs, held a job fair attended by 1,150 of the displaced employees, and conducted two days of Rapid Response Services for the workers including job search assistance, job referrals, and assistance with registering on the WorkInTexas.com job-matching site.

## Military veteran workforce system employees honored

Workforce Solutions North Texas (North Texas) staff members who are military veterans will soon be honored at the Glen Eickman Veterans Memorial Pavilion at the Wichita County Cemetery in Wichita Falls. Bricks, inscribed with the staff members’ names

and branch of service, will be placed at the pavilion. The North Texas Veterans Council is heading the project that will honor all veterans and the late Glen Eickman, a veterans service officer for Wichita County who died in 2011.

David Dohme, a Texas Veterans Commission staff member who works in the Wichita Falls Workforce Solutions Center, is a member of the North Texas Veterans Council and championed the effort to raise funds for the cost of the bricks in order to honor his co-workers who are veterans.

“I thought it was a good idea to acknowledge the vets in the office,” Dohme said. “Within three hours, I had raised the money I needed to purchase the bricks for my fellow vets.”

He explained that the construction of the pavilion is in the bidding stage as members of the North Texas Veterans Council decide where to place the inscribed bricks.

## Lubbock group nets NAWB award

The National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) recognized the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA) with its annual W.O. Lawton Leadership award at its annual convention last March. The award honors a business or business organization that made the commitment of time, money, and leadership to make their community’s workforce and economy more vibrant.

Nominated by Workforce Solutions South Plains (South Plains), LEDA received the award because it helped South Plains’ ability to make a regional impact. In 2000, LEDA launched a community-wide partnership enhancing workforce development initiatives by creating the non-profit Community Workforce Partnership (CWP). The CWP has built a transferrable, sustainable model to ensure business and industry needs are met through training and education initiatives.

Other LEDA accomplishments noted in their nominations included: facilitating a Skills Development Fund grant for South Plains College in partnership with mixed signal foundry company, X-Fab; creating a partnership with Byron Martin Technology center to build technical programs; and building career pathways for emerging occupations through partnerships between school districts and higher education institutions; securing a Nurse Education grant of \$2.9 million for a coalition of area nursing schools to educate RNs and hire nurse educators.



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(817) 695-9184  
www.dfwjobs.com

**South Texas**  
(956) 722-3973  
www.southtexasworkforce.org

**Cameron County**  
(956) 548-6700  
www.wfscameron.org

**East Texas**  
(903) 984-8641  
www.easttexasworkforce.org

**North East Texas**  
(903) 794-9490  
www.netxworkforce.org

**Tarrant County**  
(817) 413-4400  
www.workforcesolutions.net

**Capital Area**  
(512) 597-7100  
www.wfscapitalarea.com

**Golden Crescent**  
(361) 576-5872  
www.gcworkforce.org

**North Texas**  
(940) 767-1432  
www.ntxworksolutions.org

**Texoma**  
(903) 957-7408  
www.workforcesolutionstexoma.com

**Central Texas**  
(254) 939-3771  
www.workforcelink.com

**Gulf Coast**  
(713) 627-3200  
(888) 469-5627  
www.wrksolutions.com

**Panhandle**  
(806) 372-3381  
www.wspanhandle.com

**Upper Rio Grande**  
(915) 887-2600  
www.urgjobs.com

**Coastal Bend**  
(361) 885-3016  
www.workforcesolutionscb.org

**Heart of Texas**  
(254) 296-5300  
www.hotworkforce.com

**Permian Basin**  
(432) 563-5239  
www.workforcepb.org

**West Central**  
(325) 795-4200  
(800) 457-5633  
www.workforcesystem.org

**Rural Capital Area**  
(512) 244-7966  
www.workforcesolutionsrca.com

*The Texas Workforce Commission, in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards, forms Texas Workforce Solutions.*



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