

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DATE: October 13, 2015

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TWC Announces Five Finalists for 2015 Texas Workforce Solutions Employer of the Year

AUSTIN –The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced today that Campbell Soup Supply Company of Paris, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP of The Woodlands, Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Hotel, Spa & Conference Center, Lockheed Martin Lufkin Operations and Providence Healthcare Network of Waco are the finalists for the 2015 Texas Workforce Solutions Employer of the Year Award.

“We are pleased to recognize these five finalists, their partnerships and contributions to the Texas workforce,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “The dedication and leadership shown by these employers creates value for the Texas economy and I am proud to honor their contributions through this year’s Employer of the Year Award nominations.”

The five finalists were chosen from among 26 private-sector employers nominated for their contributions to the Texas workforce and innovation and collaboration with their local Workforce Solutions network partner.

“These finalists represent a commitment to the Texas workforce through their ongoing development and training efforts,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Everyone benefits from a highly skilled workforce.”

Employer of the Year nominations are submitted to TWC by Workforce Development Boards to honor local employers that exemplify TWC’s mission to promote and support a workforce system that creates value and offers employers, individuals and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

“We are proud of these Texas employers and the example of collaboration they have set in their communities,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth R. Hughs. “These finalists demonstrate true leadership and dedication.”

The 2015 Employer of the Year will be announced at the 19th Annual Texas Workforce Conference Employer Award luncheon, which will take place at the Hyatt Regency Dallas on Thursday, Nov. 19.

Also honored at the luncheon will be the 28 Local Employer of Excellence award recipients who will be recognized for their involvement with the Texas workforce system and the positive contributions they have made to employers, workers and their communities.

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*2015 Texas Workforce Solutions Employer of the Year Nominees***Campbell Soup Supply Company****Nominated by Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas**

Campbell Soup Supply Company (Campbell) has been operating in Lamar County since 1964 and recently celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Paris plant. A workforce of approximately 900 employees at the 1.5-million-square-foot facility produces a variety of products from the Campbell line.

Campbell collaborates directly with Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas (Northeast Texas) through recruitment, job postings, job fair participation, annual industry tours, and Skills Development Fund grants. Additionally, in partnership with Paris Junior College and Northeast Texas, Campbell participates in the ACT Work Ready Certification program.

Continuously improving employee skills, Campbell has participated in several Skills Development Fund grants. Most recently, a Skills Development Fund grant assisted Campbell in producing two new product lines, upgrading equipment, and creating 100 new jobs. Campbell employees have improved their job skills through training programs, resulting in increased wages or promotions.

Campbell is more than just a major employer of the Paris community; it encourages volunteerism, growth, and support of the local community through hundreds of volunteer hours and thousands of dollars in donations to local charities. Campbell supports the Paris Community Theatre, Leadership Lamar County, Northeast Texas job fairs, local independent school districts, and the United Way.

Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP**Nominated by Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast**

Headquartered in The Woodlands, Chevron Phillips Chemical Company LP (Chevron Phillips Chemical) has eight manufacturing facilities and one research and technology center in Texas. Chevron Phillips Chemical is building its \$6 billion U.S. Gulf Coast Petrochemicals Project. This expansion project will support 10,000 temporary construction and engineering jobs and 400 long-term jobs in Baytown and Old Ocean.

In response to an increasing need for a highly-trained workforce, Chevron Phillips Chemical donated \$75,000 to Lee College in Baytown to begin a workforce development scholarship program for students pursuing a two-year degree in Process Technology, Instrumentation Technology or Electrical Technology. The program recently extended to additional community colleges and dual-credit enrolled high school students in East Harris, Chambers, Liberty, Brazoria and Jefferson counties.

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Together with its 50 percent owner company Phillips 66, Chevron Phillips Chemical with Sweeny Independent School District developed a petrochemical academy in Brazoria County in 2014. With an initial combined contribution of \$1.6 million, the educational academy allows high school students to take dual-credit technical college-level courses while attending high school.

Chevron Phillips Chemical also donated \$50,000 in 2014 and in 2015 to sponsor a Junior Achievement Inspire event, a series of all-day career education assemblies attended by nearly 19,000 eighth-grade students in the greater Houston area.

Embassy Suites by Hilton San Marcos Hotel, Spa & Conference Center

Nominated by Workforce Rural Capital Area

Embassy Suites Hotel by Hilton San Marcos Hotel, Spa & Conference Center (Embassy Suites) facilitates workforce development throughout Hays County by working with local school districts to create programs and internships. By partnering with Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area (Rural Capital Area), Embassy Suites can easily facilitate larger recruitment events.

Working closely with the San Marcos and Hays County Independent School Districts, Embassy Suites provides students with internship opportunities to gain real-life experience. Students work alongside professionals in every department of the hotel, with an emphasis on culinary development, and receive supplemental instruction on résumé writing, interviewing, and professionalism in the workplace. With event space limiting participation at local job fairs, Embassy Suites stepped in to bolster recruitment efforts in Hays County by offering its facilities and a corporate partnership to Rural Capital Area, at no cost—actions that have raised awareness of these events in the community.

From partnerships with local school districts that have spawned the development of curriculum and internship opportunities for students, to a strategic partnership with Rural Capital Area that has doubled and tripled job fair participation by employers and job seekers, respectively, Embassy Suites is providing career solutions today while developing tomorrow's workforce.

Lockheed Martin Lufkin Operations

Nominated by Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas

For 20 years, Lockheed Martin Lufkin Operations (Lockheed Martin) has been an integral part of the Lufkin community. Lockheed Martin's success is due in large part to its close relationship with such community partners as the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas (Deep East), local education institutions, and nonprofits.

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Employer of the Year

Lockheed Martin provides specialized training and career advancement opportunities to its 250 employees, including tuition reimbursement and mentoring. It partners with Angelina College on TWC Skills Development Fund grants to enhance and strengthen employee skills to help them reach their fullest potential. It participates in job fairs hosted by Deep East to recruit new employees.

Lockheed Martin encourages employees to volunteer in the community. Working with local community colleges and universities, volunteers actively participate in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) outreach by supporting high school and college career fairs and offering STEM presentations to science and engineering departments. Lockheed Martin is also a corporate sponsor of the Lufkin High School Robotics Team. Its employees are also active in and contribute to area nonprofits, including Habitat for Humanity, the Annual Alzheimer's Walk, Adopt-a-Highway, and Hazardous Waste Collection Day

Providence Healthcare Network**Nominated by Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas**

Providence Healthcare Network (Providence) delivers health care to Central Texans through a compassionate and innovative medical system of 2,397 employees. In keeping with their mission and vision of providing compassionate care, Providence uses innovative approaches in seeking skilled health care professionals.

Providence is a lead partner in Greater Waco Advance Healthcare Academy, designed to educate future healthcare personnel. Additionally, Providence exposes youth to high-demand occupations in the medical field during the Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas (Heart of Texas) YES! Expo career event. Along with participating in 99 percent of Heart of Texas job fairs for the past four years, Providence recruits through social media, employee referrals and WorkinTexas.com.

Demonstrating a commitment to stay at the forefront of current healthcare trends and training, Providence has partnered with McLennan Community College (MCC), for multiple Skills Development Fund grants from TWC.

Providence's passion and innovative leadership in the Waco community goes beyond job growth and skills training in the health care arena. Providence partners with and participates in numerous nonprofit activities in the Waco area, such as Prosper Waco, which aims to reduce poverty within the community. The Providence team is heavily involved with organizations in the area through volunteerism and participation in community events.

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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](#).