

Table of Contents

| | |
|--|----|
| Welcome from the Commissioners | 3 |
| Welcome from Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast | 5 |
| Meet Chairman Bryan Daniel | 8 |
| Meet Commissioner Alberto Treviño III | 9 |
| General Information | 10 |
| Wednesday At-A-Glance, November 29, 2023 | 11 |
| Opening Keynote Address | 12 |
| Commissioner Remarks | 13 |
| Super Session | |
| Wednesday Workshops | 14 |
| 4:15–5:15 p.m..... | 14 |
| Thursday At-A-Glance, November 30, 2023 | 19 |
| Commissioner Remarks | 20 |
| Super Session | |
| Thursday Workshops | 21 |
| 10:15–11:15 a.m. | 21 |
| Remarks | 24 |
| Super Session | |
| Thursday Workshops | 25 |
| 3:45–4:45 p.m. | 25 |
| Friday At-A-Glance, December 1, 2023 | 31 |
| Grand Session | 32 |
| 8:30–9:30 a.m. | 32 |
| Closing Keynote Address | 32 |
| Exhibitors | 33 |
| Wednesday’s Keynote Speaker, Adam “Smiley” Poswolsky | 57 |
| Friday’s Keynote Speaker, Courtney Clark | 59 |
| Speakers | 60 |
| Notes Pages | 70 |

Welcome from the Commissioners

Dear Workforce Partners:

Welcome to the 26th Annual Texas Workforce Conference—"Many Paths, One Mission."

Texas Workforce Solutions, composed of the Texas Workforce Commission and 28 Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards), benefits from the efforts of statewide, regional, and community partners like you constantly improving the state's critical workforce development efforts. We are excited to be here in Houston with you, cohosting this year's conference with The Texas Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals.

We value your partnership in support of high-quality services for employers and job seekers. We share a critical role in ensuring that all businesses and workers who use Texas Workforce Solutions receive best-in-class services and engage in programs that help them thrive and positively impact the economic success of our great state.

This year, we have planned speakers and workshops that will help inspire dialogue and generate resourceful ideas to further the best practices already in place for business solutions, workforce, training, education, and economic development goals.

Thank you for attending the 2023 conference. We appreciate your commitment to Texans and your beneficial ways of serving this state.

Enjoy the conference!

Sincerely,



Bryan Daniel, Chairman
Commissioner Representing the Public



Alberto Treviño III
Commissioner Representing Labor

Welcome from Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast



Gulf Coast Workforce Board

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027

PO Box 22777 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

MAIN: 713.627.3200 FAX: 713.993.4578

www.wrksolutions.com



November 2023

Welcome to Houston and the 26th Annual Texas Workforce Conference, where this year's theme is "Many Paths, One Mission." We are delighted to gather with you to explore the latest trends and innovations in workforce development, facilitate the exchange of ideas and best practices, and share invaluable networking opportunities.

As a proud native Houstonian, I am inspired by the resilience and unity that define our city as "Houston Strong." It symbolizes our unwavering determination and commitment to surmounting challenges, perfectly aligning with the theme of "Many Paths, One Mission." With diverse backgrounds and perspectives, Houstonians unite their strengths and experiences to navigate paths toward a shared objective of overcoming adversity and strengthening our community.

Throughout this conference, we will delve into the multifaceted paths that shape the Texas workforce system, while fostering collaboration and coordination to empower our employers and residents. Whether you are a Local Workforce Development Board director, a dedicated state agency staff member, a respected educational leader, or a visionary employer in the private sector, your contribution plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of our workforce. Together, we aspire to build a prosperous community that thrives on resilience, innovation, and effective coordination.

We invite you to enjoy the diverse experiences that Space City offers, from immersing yourself in the vibrant culture and rich history of the East End or Third Ward to visiting a local community college or exploring a Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast career office. This conference provides a remarkable opportunity to connect with fellow attendees, explore the unique facets of our city, and foster meaningful relationships that will undoubtedly contribute to the fulfillment of our shared mission. We look forward to connecting in the days to come.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Juliet K. Stipeche".

Juliet K. Stipeche

Executive Director, Gulf Coast Workforce Board

www.wrksolutions.com 1.888.469.JOBS (5627)

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (Please request reasonable accommodations a minimum of two business days in advance.) RELAY TEXAS: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) 1.800.735.2988 (voice) or 711

A proud partner of the [AmericanJobCenter](http://www.americanjobcenter.org) network

Welcome from Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast



Gulf Coast Workforce Board

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120, Houston, Texas 77027

PO Box 22777 Houston, Texas 77227-2777

MAIN: 713.627.3200 FAX: 713.993.4578

www.wrksolutions.com

November 2023

Welcome to Houston and the 26th Annual Texas Workforce Conference!

It is with great enthusiasm that I extend my heartfelt welcome to Houston and to the 26th Annual Texas Workforce Conference, cohosted by the Texas Workforce Commission in collaboration with The Texas Chapter of the International Association of Workforce Professionals. As Chair of the Gulf Coast Workforce Board, I am honored to be a part of this event and share in the excitement it brings.

Looking back at the remarkable journey since our last conference in Houston, in 2021, it is inspiring to witness the resilience and optimism displayed by the people of Texas. Despite the challenges, our communities have demonstrated unwavering adaptability and resilience. Embracing the opportunities presented by virtual work, virtual education, and virtual job fairs, our workforce and industries have proven their ability to overcome adversity and thrive in the face of uncertainty.

In these unprecedented times, the value and importance of our Texas workforce system has become more evident than ever. The unwavering dedication and tireless efforts of the state's Local Workforce Development Boards in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Solutions network, continue to play an indispensable role in fostering growth and prosperity. I take immense pride in recognizing the exceptional contributions made by our esteemed workforce development leaders.

As we come together for the 26th Annual Texas Workforce Conference, I enthusiastically embrace the theme of "Many Paths, One Mission," which encapsulates our shared commitment to unity, collaboration, and innovation in navigating the ever-evolving landscape of workforce development. Together, we will ensure that the 26th Annual Texas Workforce Conference becomes an extraordinary milestone—fostering collaboration, inspiring innovation, and nurturing meaningful connections among workforce professionals across our great state.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark C. Guthrie".

Mark C. Guthrie

Chair, Gulf Coast Workforce Board

www.wrksolutions.com 1.888.469.JOBS (5627)

Workforce Solutions is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (Please request reasonable accommodations a minimum of two business days in advance.) RELAY TEXAS: 1.800.735.2989 (TDD) 1.800.735.2988 (voice) or 711

A proud partner of the [AmericanJobCenter](http://www.americanjobcenter.org) network

Meet Chairman Daniel



Bryan Daniel

Chairman and Commissioner Representing the Public
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 674
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 463-3030
bryan.daniel@twc.texas.gov

Bryan Daniel serves as Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), where he works to promote and support the growth of Texas' world-class employers and talented workforce. To champion that goal, he advances innovative workforce and economic development strategies in collaboration with TWC's education partners, local officials, and industry leaders to establish Texas' competitive edge as the best place to work in the world.

Prior to joining TWC, Bryan served for four and half years on Texas Governor Greg Abbott's senior staff, where he led the Office of Economic Development and Tourism—which included the Texas Enterprise Fund, Events Trust Fund, Governor's University Research Initiative, Texas Tourism Office, Texas Music Office, Texas Film Commission, Texas Workforce Investment Council, the Economic Development Bank, the Texas Military Preparedness Commission, and the State of Texas Mexico Office.

His tenure as the Texas State Director for Rural Development for President George W. Bush and as Chief Administrator for Trade and Business Development at the Texas Department of Agriculture, along with his private-sector experiences as a marketing executive and member of boards of directors, have provided him with valuable insights on economic development and workforce issues.

Chairman Daniel graduated from Texas Tech University with both a bachelor's degree and master's degree, and in 2019, Texas Tech's College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural Resources recognized him as a Distinguished Alumnus.

Meet Commissioner Treviño



Alberto Treviño III

Commissioner Representing Labor
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 638
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 463-2868
alberto.trevino@twc.texas.gov

Alberto Treviño III serves as the Commissioner Representing Labor for the Texas Workforce Commission. On January 9, 2023, Governor Greg Abbott appointed him to the three-member Commission, and he was confirmed by the Texas Senate on March 15, 2023.

Before his appointment, Commissioner Treviño served as a US Border Patrol agent. He has nearly 33 years of combined law enforcement and border patrol experience, with 21 years of service to Local 3307 of the National Border Patrol Council (NBPC), where he served as Executive Vice President, and later, as Treasurer.

Prior to NBPC, Commissioner Treviño worked as a police instructor, background investigator, and patrol officer for the Harlingen Police Department. He is a third degree knight of the Knights of Columbus, a former member of the City of Harlingen Tennis Advisory Board, and a former volunteer for Little League Baseball.

Commissioner Treviño earned an associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Texas Southmost College.

General Information

CONFERENCE HOTEL

All conference events take place at:
Marriott Marquis Houston
1777 Walker Street
Houston, TX 77010 • (713) 654-1777

EXHIBIT AREA

Don't miss the Exhibit Area. An important part of your conference experience, the Exhibit Area will be located in the Houston Ballroom, Level 2. The companies and organizations represented provide valuable job training, education, and employment resources, which can help enhance the services you provide. This is a great opportunity to learn about these resources and collect information for yourself or your organization. For complete information on the exhibitors, refer to the Exhibitors index tab.

- Wednesday, November 29, 5:30–7:00 p.m.
- Thursday, November 30, 7:30 a.m.–6:15 p.m.
- Friday, December 1, 7:30–10:00 a.m.

FOOD EVENTS

The following food events, which are covered by registration fees, will be held in the Houston Ballroom, Level 2.

- Welcome Reception and Exhibitor Displays
Wednesday, November 29, 5:30–7:00 p.m.
- Breakfast
Thursday, November 30, 7:30–8:30 a.m.
- Networking Reception
Thursday, November 30, 5:00–6:15 p.m.
- Breakfast
Friday, December 1, 7:30–8:30 a.m.

The Employer Awards Luncheon will be held in the Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4, Thursday, November 30, 11:30 a.m.–1:00 p.m. The luncheon is open to all conference attendees.

Event times are listed in the Program Schedule on the At-A-Glance pages and in the Pocket Agenda.

DOOR PRIZES

Boards and exhibitors have donated door prizes that represent their local communities and companies. The names of door prize winners will be posted at the door prize booth in the Houston Ballroom, Level 2. Door prize winners will be selected at the following food events held in the Houston Ballroom, Level 2:

- Welcome Reception and Exhibitor Displays
Wednesday, November 29, 5:30–7:00 p.m.
- Breakfast
Thursday, November 30, 7:30–8:30 a.m.
- Afternoon Break
Thursday, November 30, 1:00–1:45 p.m.
- Networking Reception
Thursday, November 30, 5:00–6:15 p.m.

Winners have until 8:30 a.m., Friday, December 1, to claim their prizes.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDIT

Continuing education units (CEUs) for 15 hours are available for certified public accountants and general professionals on Friday, December 1, in the Texas Ballroom A–E, Pre-Function Area, Level 4. CEUs for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors will be available for select sessions that meet the requirements.

BUSINESS CENTER

M Club Lounge, located on Level 6
Open daily 24/7 (access with M Club key)

ATM

Main Lobby (between check-in desk and elevators)

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY

In case of an emergency in the conference hotel, please dial "0" from any hotel house phone. An emergency response team will respond immediately.

OPENING CEREMONY AND WELCOME..... **1:00–1:15 P.M.**
Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

NATIONAL ANTHEM AND PRESENTATION OF COLORS

OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS..... **1:15–2:30 P.M.**
Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4
Belonging in the Hybrid Workforce: Creating Human
Connection and Community in the Future of Work
Adam “Smiley” Poswolsky
Speaker and Author
SpeakInc

BREAK..... **2:30–2:45 P.M.**

COMMISSIONER REMARKS

SUPER SESSION..... **2:45–4:00 P.M.**
Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

BREAK..... **4:00–4:15 P.M.**

WORKSHOPS..... **4:15–5:15 P.M.**

WELCOME RECEPTION AND EXHIBITOR DISPLAYS..... **5:30–7:00 P.M.**
Houston Ballroom, Level 2
Dinner Buffet
Door Prize Giveaway!

Opening Keynote Address 1:15–2:30 p.m.

Belonging in the Hybrid Workforce: Creating Human Connection and Community in the Future of Work

Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

As time spent face-to-face has been replaced with wall-to-wall Teams meetings and 24/7 chat messages, workplace connection has withered. In fact, 43 percent of employees don't feel a sense of connection to their coworkers, 38 percent don't trust their coworkers, and 22 percent don't have one friend at work. With 70 percent of employees feeling disconnected from their jobs, disengagement is at a record high. Lonely employees are less productive and cost US employers \$4,000 per employee and \$406 billion a year. Alternatively, high levels of belonging may save a company \$52 million a year and provide employees with greater resilience, well-being, and personal and professional growth.

In this timely and inspiring presentation, Adam "Smiley" Poswolsky, an expert on workplace belonging, will share how workforce, economic development, and vocational rehabilitation professionals can attract and retain top talent, reignite human connection, and increase team engagement by fostering a culture of belonging for employees. Mr. Poswolsky will share actionable and easy-to-implement tools for fostering team engagement, ensuring psychological safety, and supporting teams that have experienced virtual burnout and Zoom fatigue. At the end of this presentation, your team will have an easy-to-use tool kit to reimagine a collaborative, inclusive, people-first culture as well as become an industry leader in the future of work.

Smiley Poswolsky
Speaker and Author
SpeakInc

**Commissioner Remarks
Super Session
2:45–4:00 p.m.**

The Workforce Show with Bryan Daniel

Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

Live from the Studio Texas Ballroom in Houston, Texas ... Heeeere's Bryan! Join Chairman Bryan Daniel as he hosts his workforce-centric talk show and introduces some special guests, recurring characters, and several segments to update you on the state of the Texas workforce system.

Bryan Daniel
Chairman and
Commissioner Representing the Public
Texas Workforce Commission

Randy Townsend
Deputy Executive Director
Texas Workforce Commission

Ken Treviño
President and CEO
Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend

Mahalia Baldini
Director of Adult Education and Literacy
Texas Workforce Commission

Workshops

4:15–5:15 p.m.

Texans with Disabilities—Successfully Accessing an Untapped Talent Pool

Salon F, Level 4

In a March 2022 report, the National Organization on Disability (NOD) determined that only 21.3 percent of individuals with disabilities are actively working. Increasing employment opportunities for Americans with disabilities may help Texas companies access an unrecognized talent pool and gain competitive advantages. A lack of accommodations, education, advocacy, and resources prevents employers from discovering the assets offered by this oftentimes marginalized group. Additionally, individuals with disabilities may have difficulty disclosing their disabilities due to fear of potential discrimination and prejudice. This seminar will present the smart way to build a competitive workforce with an untapped talent pool of individuals who are seeking to use their skills and talents in the workplace.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how to use People First language and practice inclusive language
- Identify community resources and strategies that support educational and workforce opportunities for individuals with disabilities

Heba Toulan, MS

Adult Education and Literacy
Grant Manager
Texas Workforce Commission

Internationally Trained Professionals: An Untapped Resource for Middle Skilled Jobs

Salon G, Level 4

From pandemic disruptions to technological advances, new pressures are rapidly reshaping the landscape of the labor market across the global economy. Workplace shortages and skills gaps in the United States and in Texas offer an opportunity to strengthen a talent pipeline of skilled immigrant workers, or internationally trained professionals (ITPs), who are seeking to reenter their career path in the United States. Under WIOA, “skilled professionals with degrees and credentials from their home country,” are identified as a priority population across core programs and may benefit from rapid reengagement with employers to support their families and communities. A fast track to the job market through middle skilled jobs with family sustaining wages can be a win-win for the economy and the individual.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the population of ITPs with work experience and credentials who enter the Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program for services
- Understand the linguistic, economic, and cultural support provided through AEL and partner services
- Identify ways partner programs can establish referrals to AEL to support ITPs into employment

Mahalia Baldini

Director of Adult Education and Literacy
Texas Workforce Commission

Ann Savino

Career Pathway Lead
Adult Education and Literacy
Texas Workforce Commission

Preparing the Workforce: How to Help Justice-Involved Job Seekers Obtain and Maintain Successful Employment

Salon H, Level 4

Approximately one in three Americans are involved in the criminal justice system in some way. After an individual is released from incarceration, they face significant barriers upon reintegration into society, especially relating to obtaining employment. In 2020, CVS Health created the Second Chance program, the goal of which is to provide workforce development, health and wellness, educational, and fair chance job opportunities to justice-involved individuals and their children. The program has served more than 6,700 individuals to date.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about fair chance hiring and how Local Workforce Development Boards collaborate with employers to help justice-involved job seekers
- Understand how to identify and partner with fair chance employers to support their justice-involved job seekers

E. Yani Diaz Bennett

Senior Manager
CVS Health Workforce Initiatives

Alma Duldulao-Ybarra

Chief People Officer
Goodwill Houston

Ashley Glenn

Project Manager
Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Tanya Majied

Senior Director, Workforce Development
Goodwill Houston

Gina Mattaliano

Senior Manager
CVS Health Workforce Initiatives

Nicole Quintero

Quality Assurance Manager
Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Using the Apprenticeship Training Model**River Oaks, Level 3**

Come and explore what's new in apprenticeship. The discussion will focus on new legislation that is impacting the expansion of apprenticeship training in Texas as well as any new and emerging occupations using the apprenticeship training model.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about new legislation and legislation funding opportunities
- Identify technical assistance needed to develop apprenticeship programs

Desiree Holmes

Apprenticeship Director
Texas Workforce Commission

Dudley Light

Regional Director, Region 4
Office of Apprenticeship
US Department of Labor

New Board Member Orientation**Hunters Creek, Level 3**

The Local Workforce Development Board (Board) member is the catalyst for changing the Texas workforce system from being supply-driven to being market-driven. Board members must be flexible and willing to discard former paradigms to lead others in shaping an effective Texas workforce system, by engaging local employers, aligning local resources, forging partnerships, and planning strategies. This orientation for new Board members provides an overview of Texas Workforce Solutions and the roles and responsibilities of Boards and their members. Texas Workforce Commission staff members help Board members understand both their role as it relates to Board staff and service providers and their responsibility for strategic direction and planning. This workshop satisfies the New Board Member Orientation requirement for new Board members.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about Texas Workforce Solutions roles and the responsibilities of Board members compared to those of Board staff
- Discover employment and training programs and services available in the Board's local workforce development area
- Identify characteristics of successful Board members

Mike Nolen

Training Specialist
Texas Workforce Commission

Les Trobman

General Counsel
Texas Workforce Commission

BREAKFAST.....7:30–8:30 A.M.
Houston Ballroom, Level 2
Door Prize Giveaway!

EXHIBITOR HOURS.....7:30 A.M.–6:30 P.M.
Houston Ballroom, Level 2

WORKFORCE AWARDS.....8:30–8:45 A.M.
Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

COMMISSIONER REMARKS

SUPER SESSION.....8:45–10:00 A.M.
Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

BREAK.....10:00–10:15 A.M.

WORKSHOPS.....10:15–11:15 A.M.

EMPLOYER AWARDS LUNCHEON.....11:30 A.M.–1:00 P.M.
Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4
Luncheon is for all conference attendees.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY FOR AWARD WINNERS.....1:00–1:45 P.M.
David Mitzner, Level 4

BREAK.....1:00–1:45 P.M.
Houston Ballroom, Level 2
Door Prize Giveaway!

SUPER SESSION.....1:45–3:00 P.M.
Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

WORKFORCE AWARDS.....3:00–3:30 P.M.
Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

BREAK.....3:30–3:45 P.M.

WORKSHOPS.....3:45–4:45 P.M.

NETWORKING RECEPTION.....5:00–6:15 P.M.
Houston Ballroom, Level 2
Hors d'oeuvres will be served for your pre-dinner enjoyment.
Two Complimentary Drink Tickets per attendee provided by
Marriott Marquis Hotel.
Door Prize Giveaway!

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY FOR AWARD WINNERS.....5:15–6:00 P.M.
David Mitzner, Level 4

Commissioner Remarks Super Session 8:45–10:00 a.m.

Pathways and Partnerships for a Skilled Workforce

Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

Sharing best practices means taking the most efficient and resourceful route. When best practices are shared in the context of services and ideas, the result is individuals of all ages discover and navigate meaningful career pathways. A dynamic panel will guide you to discover untapped talent in your area and recognize best practices for engaging customers and employers. Let's increase collaboration to help our customers determine the different stages of their own journey and plot a career pathway.

Alberto Treviño III

Commissioner Representing Labor
Texas Workforce Commission

Joe Cooper

Training Director
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union #286

Mark Durand

Executive Director
Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas

Anson Green

Senior Manager, Digital and
Automation Upskilling
IT Learning, Development, and
Engagement
Talent and Culture
Tyson Foods

Mike Reeser

Chancellor and CEO
Texas State Technical College

Workshops

10:15–11:15 a.m.

Project SEARCH: A Collaborative Transition-to-Work Model with Proven Results

Salon F, Level 4

Project SEARCH is a collaborative, business-led, transition-to-work model that features partnerships among businesses, local independent school districts, employment service providers, local intellectual or developmental disability experts, and other entities that serve students with disabilities. In this session, learn about the program model and hear from partners about how they have created unique and innovative training opportunities that help interns develop marketable and competitive skills leading to employment. The presenters will highlight successes of Project SEARCH programs, including how business partners have enhanced their workforce with access to a new, diverse talent pipeline with skills that match labor needs.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify benefits of starting a Project SEARCH program in your area
- Learn how to start a new Project SEARCH program at your workplace

Joy Burress

National Consultant, Project SEARCH
Cincinnati Children's Hospital

Leigh Ann Godinez, CRC, LPC

Program Specialist for Transition and
Statewide Coordinator, Project SEARCH
Texas Workforce Solutions Vocational
Rehabilitation Services

**The Power of Partnership—Alamo
Workforce Consortium****Salon G, Level 4**

In 2021, Workforce Solutions Alamo created the Alamo Workforce Consortium to expand its reach to job seekers served by community partners. Consortium partners consist of nine key organizations committed to removing barriers for job seekers who are on the path to self-sufficiency through education, training, and employment. The consortium combines community support such as financial literacy, housing, food, and child care with education, training, and workforce development.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how to combine the nonprofit network and other community-based organizations with workforce development
- Explore ways in which you can expand your outreach through the power of partnership
- Discover how to leverage resources and create value for community-based organizations

Eric Cooper

CEO

San Antonio Food Bank

Richard Davidson

COO

Family Service Association
of San Antonio, Inc.**Rebecca Espino-Balencia**Director of Ready to Work
Workforce Solutions Alamo**Adrian Lopez**

CEO

Workforce Solutions Alamo

Antonio Tarantino

CEO

Chrysalis Ministries

Building Work Ethic in a Changing World

Salon H, Level 4

The COVID-19 pandemic forever changed the workplace as we know it. Although technical skills are important, the biggest concern for employers is soft skills. Nearly nine out of 10 hiring managers report that work ethic, which comprises soft skills, is the most important factor in hiring, and the lack of soft skills leads to 89 percent of all terminations. The presenter will provide five key strategies for developing the essential work ethic skills that employers demand.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the evolution of work ethic in the post-COVID-19 world
- Discover the impact that the soft skills gap has on job seekers
- Learn five ways to develop work ethic in all populations

Josh Davies

Director of Workforce
Aztec Software

Connecting Texas' Young Adults to Economic Opportunities

River Oaks, Level 3

Texas is home to an estimated 500,000 young adults ages 16–24 who are struggling to reconnect and take advantage of economic advancement opportunities, whether it be through school or work. This population is not new to the workforce system, and strategies under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act are yielding replicable practices to help young adults reenter the workforce, pursue an education, or receive training. Building on local wisdom, Texas communities are creating innovative approaches to pathways development. Leaders from local organizations will demonstrate best practices to grow strategic economic opportunities for young adults.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn which partners to bring to the table to support collaboration and drive effective performance
- Understand how braided funding can support new models for wraparound services
- Describe how service is managed and what partner roles and responsibilities to outline for successful case management

Mahalia Baldini

Director of Adult Education and Literacy
Texas Workforce Commission

Hannah Gourgey

Opportunity Youth Forum, Senior Fellow
Aspen Institute

Jauneen Maldonado

Director of Adult Education and Literacy
Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

Tabitha Smith-Moore

Programs Oversight Unit Director
Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

Open Meetings Training for Public Officials**Hunters Creek, Level 3**

In this workshop, participants will receive the Open Meetings Act compliance training that is required for Local Workforce Development Board members and other public officials.

Learning Objective: Complete the mandatory open meetings training

Debra K. Simpson
Assistant General Counsel
Texas Workforce Commission

**Super Session
1:45–3:00 p.m.**

The Future Is Here: Potential Impact and Opportunities Related to Artificial Intelligence in the Workforce

Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

A panel of experts in the field of artificial intelligence (AI) will discuss their observations and experiences regarding the potential implementation of AI and its impact on the operations and services of the state's workforce, employers, and workforce system.

Ed Serna
Executive Director
Texas Workforce Commission

Workshops

3:45–4:45 p.m.

Reinventing Your Choices and SNAP E&T Programs with Adult Education and Literacy

Salon F, Level 4

The Choices program, which helps participants transition from public assistance through job search, job readiness courses, skills training, basic education, and/or work experience, has made significant changes over the last few years. Both Choices and SNAP E&T participants may benefit from services offered by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) partners that serve core customers. The presenters will summarize guidance that, through WIOA Title II programs under the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, supports coenrollment and simultaneous education and training.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify key guidance under WIOA that supports expanded options for Choices and SNAP E&T participants
- Learn how to outreach Adult Education and Literacy partner providers and develop effective strategies to expand participant services

Mahalia Baldini

Director of Adult Education and Literacy
Texas Workforce Commission

Patricia Martinez

Director of Workforce Board Service
Strategies
Texas Workforce Commission

Joel Mullins

Director of Workforce Program Policy
Texas Workforce Commission

Texas' Future Workforce is in Today's Classroom**Salon G, Level 4**

This session will highlight why and how Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) and companies should work directly with K-16 schools to help prepare students in order to meet the industry's future workforce demands. The panel will include perspectives from a member of a high-performing Board, an educator whose classes have been connecting with companies to gain exposure of career pathways, and a vice president from an educational technology company facilitating these connections.

Learning Objectives:

- Discover impactful ideas for Boards and professionals to help shape the workforce of the future
- Identify real-world examples based on work already in progress in San Antonio
- Share lessons learned and best practices for K-16 industry collaboration

Brenda Burmeister

Work-Based Learning Coordinator
San Antonio Independent School District

Melanie Flowers

Vice President, Industry Partnerships
Pathful, Inc.

Adrian Lopez

CEO
Workforce Solutions Alamo

Sandy Pastrano

Education and Training Teacher
Highlands High School
San Antonio Independent School District

Building the Tracks to Quality: Quality Cohort**Salon H, Level 4**

This workshop will focus on how Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards) can create a pathway for Entry Level Designated programs to achieve Texas Rising Star certification by 2024. As an example, Workforce Solutions Alamo created the “Building the Tracks to Quality” cohort to increase participation in the Texas Rising Star program. Join us as we discuss the structure of the cohort, the benefits for early learning programs (ELPs), and the resources made available to the programs that participate in the cohort. ELPs are invited to participate in either a fall or spring cohort, in which they meet with Texas Rising Star mentor staff once a month for six months. Participants and mentors will meet via a virtual platform to discuss, review, and better understand the categories and measures that are evaluated during the Texas Rising Star assessment. Additionally, to fully understand what is involved in meeting Texas Rising Star expectations, participants will receive information, presentations, resources, and/or support from other agencies and organizations that seek to continue to build quality.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how Boards can create a pathway for programs to achieve Texas Rising Star certification
- Discuss how to increase the number of providers receiving Texas Rising Star certification

Ana De Hoyos O'Connor

Professor/Community Coordinator
Early Childhood Studies
San Antonio College

Annie Montana

Senior Management Analyst and Mentor
Manager
Workforce Solutions Alamo

Kimberly Villarreal

Child Care Quality Manager
Workforce Solutions Alamo

Herforce: Building Comprehensive Workplaces that Leverage the Strength of Women's Untapped Talent

River Oaks, Level 3

Women, especially women of color, lag substantially behind men regarding their representation in leadership positions. In some fields, women account for only 9 percent of all management positions, despite holding almost 52 percent of all professional-level jobs in the United States. Herforce, a population initiative from Workforce Solutions Borderplex, is designed to help address issues of parity such as leadership gaps, representation in male-dominated industries, living wage and earnings gaps, and access to affordable child care. The goal is to highlight the immense potential of women in the workforce. In this workshop, presenters will discuss the systemic barriers that women face and explore strategies to overcome them. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of the benefits of a multifaceted workforce, learn how to create a more comprehensive workplace culture, and acquire tools for empowering women to advance their careers by unlocking their potential—and the potential of the entire workforce.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn about the Herforce program and gain insights into the barriers that women face to achieve a comprehensive workplace
- Acquire practical tools for promoting women in the workforce as well as a more collaborative workplace
- Learn best practices to help address the barriers and to create more opportunities for women to tap into their potential and accelerate their careers

Leila Melendez

CEO

Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Vanessa Preston

Executive Vice President

Grant Associates

RESEA GIT: JOBS (Goal In Texas: Jobs Over Benefits)

Hunters Creek, Level 3

Texas Workforce Commission's Reemployment and Eligibility Assessment (RESEA) staff will provide information on the RESEA GIT: JOBS initiative, the goal of which is to personalize and expand services to improve participants' employment outcomes. The session will highlight results from Texas A&M University Public Policy Research Institute's evaluation of the initiative's implementation and process. Additionally, presenters will discuss the program's core purposes.

Learning Objectives:

- Outline the characteristics of successful RESEA programs
- Understand the initiative's current evaluation process and innovations
- Explain the importance of employment outcomes

Douglas Laxson
RESEA Program Specialist
Texas Workforce Commission

Emily Naiser
Assistant Project Lead
Texas A&M University Public Policy
Research Institute

Georges Naufal
Associate Research Scientist
Texas A&M University Public Policy
Research Institute

Suzette Robinson
RESEA Director
Texas Workforce Commission

Friday At-A-Glance December 1, 2023

BREAKFAST 7:30–8:30 A.M.

Houston Ballroom, Level 2

Last chance to see if you won a Door Prize and pick it up!

EXHIBITOR HOURS 7:30–10:00 A.M.

Houston Ballroom, Level 2

GRAND SESSION 8:30–9:30 A.M.

Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

BREAK 9:30–9:45 A.M.

CLOSING KEYNOTE ADDRESS 9:45–11:00 A.M.

Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

ReVisionary Thinking™

Courtney Clark

Speaker and Author

SpeakInc

CLOSING REMARKS 11:00–11:15 A.M.

Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

Grand Session 8:30–9:30 a.m.

Inspired Leadership in Challenging Times

Texas Ballroom A-E, Level 4

In Craig Whelden’s book, *Leadership: The Art of Inspiring People to Be Their Best*, the author describes decades of leadership and life lessons—both positive and negative—in a compelling and personal way. A master storyteller, he uses the lessons from his life to convey takeaways on improving life, work, leadership, and interpersonal habits.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss attendees’ organizational vision, operating style, and personal quirks
- Learn why delegation, trust, accountability, and communication skills are critical
- Discover the value (and risks) of goal setting
- Find work-life balance

Craig Whelden

Major General, US Army (Retired)
Whelden Associates

Closing Keynote Address 9:45–11:00 a.m.

ReVisionary Thinking™

Texas Ballroom A–E, Level 4

Can you reach your goals, even if things are not going the way you expect? There are strategies for adapting to the unexpected. People can easily set goals and make plans but may struggle to revise their plans when circumstances change. To do this, you need resilience. Resilience entails letting go of the “old way of doing things” and rewriting a script for success that gives you the fastest road from where you are to where you want to go. Backed by the presenter’s data-driven research, the ReVisionary Thinking™ approach offers concrete strategies to blaze a new path when the goalposts move.

Courtney Clark

Speaker and Author
SpeakInc

THE EXHIBITORS' SHOWCASE— DON'T MISS IT!

The Exhibit Area, located in the Houston Ballroom, Level 2, is an important part of your conference experience. Take advantage of this opportunity to visit the organizations represented, as these companies can provide valuable customer and administrative resources. This is a great opportunity to learn about these resources and collect information for yourself or others in your organization. The exhibitors are here to help you enhance the services you provide.

In addition to being valuable resource developers, the companies represented are major supporters of our industry. Thanks to their support, we are able to keep conference fees low while providing more services.

Who are the exhibitors? Most of the exhibitors are workforce development professionals who have developed a product while they were involved, either as an individual or as part of an organization, in a workforce development project. They are as interested as you are in providing the best possible service to your customers and are eager to show you how they can help you and your customers.

The Top Five Ways to Maximize Your Experience in the Exhibit Area

1. Bring a good supply of business cards.
2. Remember that you are not here to buy or be sold products. This is not a sales event, but rather an information-sharing event. The goal is to learn what products and services are available. The representatives at each booth are here to provide relevant information about their products and services, not to pressure you into a commitment to buy anything.
3. Stop by each exhibitor's booth to learn about the products and services and to gather information packets. Be prepared to share information about your organization to help the representatives evaluate whether their products and services could be of value. If there is someone in your organization the representative should contact, share that information.
4. If several individuals from your organization attend the conference, it is a good idea for each person to visit with different representatives in the Exhibit Area.
5. After returning from the conference, share exhibitor information with others in your organization, as they may be aware of other pending needs.

By following these five simple steps, you can learn a great deal about the new and innovative products and services available to help you better serve your customers.

Houston Ballroom

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 519 | 616 |
| 517 | |

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 515 | 614 |
| 513 | 612 |
| 511 | 610 |

| | |
|-----|-----|
| | 606 |
| 503 | 604 |
| | 602 |
| | 501 |

| |
|-----|
| 419 |
|-----|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 514 | 512 |
| 413 | 510 |
| 411 | 510 |

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 407 | 506 |
| 405 | 504 |
| 403 | 502 |
| | 401 |

| |
|-----|
| 319 |
|-----|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 307 | 406 |
| 305 | 402 |
| 303 | |
| | 301 |

| |
|-----|
| 219 |
|-----|

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 207 | 306 |
| 203 | 302 |
| | |
| 201 | 300 |

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 119 | 218 |
| 117 | 216 |

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 113 | 214 |
| 109 | 210 |
| | 208 |

| | |
|-----|-----|
| 107 | 206 |
| 103 | 204 |
| | 202 |
| 101 | 200 |

Exhibitors

| | | | |
|-----|--|-----|---|
| 515 | Ancora | 218 | Texas Workforce Commission Office of Investigations |
| 117 | Bellman & Symfon North America Inc. | 512 | Texas Workforce Commission OIB Program |
| 411 | Brookes Publishing Co., Inc. | 204 | Texas Workforce Commission Outreach and Employer Initiatives |
| 501 | Career Team | 513 | Texas Workforce Commission Rehabilitation Council of Texas |
| 306 | CELEBRATE Successful Early Learning, LLC | 103 | Texas Workforce Commission RESEA Program |
| 208 | Child's Play, Inc. | 302 | Texas Workforce Commission Risk & Security Management |
| 514 | Coding Dojo | 511 | Texas Workforce Commission Texas Veterans Leadership Program |
| 203 | CompTIA | 101 | Texas Workforce Commission Training and Development Department |
| 319 | Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center | 201 | Texas Workforce Commission Unemployment Insurance Division |
| 214 | CVS Health | 419 | Texas Workforce Commission Vocational Rehabilitation Division |
| 301 | Daivergent | 109 | Texas Workforce Commission Workforce Automation and Technical Support |
| 216 | East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind | 604 | Texas Workforce Commission WOTC Program |
| 303 | EconoVue | 510 | TRAIN PD @ TCALL |
| 200 | ed2go/Cengage Group | 406 | Uncharted Territory Solutions |
| 401 | Empyra.com, Inc. | 405 | US Department of Labor |
| 307 | EnGen | 614 | Unisys Corporation |
| 219 | Frog Street Press | 517 | UNT WISE Workplace Inclusion and Sustainable Employment |
| 207 | Geographic Solutions | 519 | University of North Texas |
| 305 | LearningMate | 403 | WorkQuest |
| 210 | LENA | | |
| 300 | Lightcast | | |
| 206 | Metrix Learning | | |
| 502 | My College Survival Coach | | |
| 606 | NAWDP | | |
| 504 | NR Swanks Freight Brokerage LLC | | |
| 113 | Pearson ELL | | |
| 413 | Premier Virtual | | |
| 107 | QS DBA QuickStart Academy | | |
| 612 | TAD Grants LLC | | |
| 506 | Teaching Strategies, LLC | | |
| 610 | Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs | | |
| 119 | Texas Workforce Commissions Communications | | |
| 616 | Texas Workforce Commission Door Prize Booth | | |
| 202 | Texas Workforce Commission Education Outreach Department | | |
| 602 | Texas Workforce Commission Fidelity Bonding Program | | |
| 503 | Texas Workforce Commission Information Innovation & Insight | | |
| 402 | Texas Workforce Commission Office of Apprenticeship | | |

Exhibitors

ANCORA BOOTH 515

2241 S. Watson Road
Arlington, TX 76010

Jay Frank

Email: jay.frank@ancora.com

Phone: (407) 416-7024

Ancora is a leading workforce solutions provider addressing America's labor gaps through innovative and technology-driven educational programs. Ancora operates in four divisions: Ancora High School, Ancora Education, Ancora Academy, and Ancora Training. Ancora High School, accredited by Cognia™, provides adult learners the opportunity to complete a high school diploma in a highly flexible, self-paced, online format. Ancora Education offers technical education training programs specializing in health care, IT, business, and skilled trades through six private, postsecondary school brands with 22 campus locations across the nation. Schools include Arizona Automotive Institute (AAI), Berks Technical Institute (BTI), Edge Tech Academy, McCann School of Business & Technology, Miller-Motte College (MMC), and South Texas Vocational Technical Institute (STVT). Ancora Academy allows learners to self-select courses that can further their professional development. Ancora Training offers CDL training and other customizable training solutions for corporate, community college, and government agency partners.

BELLMAN & SYMFON NORTH AMERICA INC

BOOTH 117

5509 Business Drive Unit B
Wilmington, NC 28405

Peter Jungvid

Phone: (910) 239-5796

Website: <https://shop.bellman.com>

At Bellman & Symfon, we are dedicated to offering unique solutions to help our hard-of-hearing and deaf users to participate at work and in society and live an independent life. We offer state-of-the-art digital hearing amplifiers that help people join conversations at work, at home, and in public places. Our world-renowned wireless Smart home system helps and protects our users by staying on top of what is happening around them, both at home and in the office. Our famous alarm clocks offer innovative features that help people sleep without anxiety, knowing they will wake up in time to attend work and school on time. Please feel welcome to visit us at booth 117 for more information and a demo!

BROOKES PUBLISHING BOOTH 411

P.O. Box 10624

Baltimore, MD 21285

Eric Ruth

Email: eruth@brookespublishing.com

Phone: (972) 322-4930

At Brookes Publishing, we believe what you believe: All children deserve to meet their potential. We have been a trusted presence in the early childhood community for more than 35 years, supporting our work through top screeners like our Ages & Stages Questionnaires (ASQ) and our practical, research-based books and curricula. Let us help you advance inclusion, work effectively with families, catch delays early, and prepare every child for a great start in life.

Exhibitors

CAREER TEAM

BOOTH 501

Anthony Terlizzi, President
of Direct Services

Email: anthony@careerteam.com

Phone: (347) 306-0180

Website: <https://careerteam.com>

Career TEAM is a trailblazing force that provides innovative solutions to complex social challenges such as closing the opportunity divide, reducing unemployment, and eradicating poverty. Offering a high-touch/high-tech approach to accelerating the human condition, we provide case management, business services, and the revolutionary workforce technology platform, Career EDGE.

CELEBRATE SUCCESSFUL EARLY LEARNING, LLC

BOOTH 306

204 Palomino Street
Crandall, TX 75114

Sharon Burnett

Email: sharon@celebratesel.com

Phone: (214) 801-5138

Website: www.CelebrateSEL.com

CELEBRATE Successful Early Learning provides supplemental products to enhance the emergent literacy experience for young learners. Our original “Sing & Read” books and music—written and developed by teachers—are based on decades of educational success as children sing, read, spell, and establish a lifetime love for learning. Lovable characters provide an easy, practical method for strengthening social-emotional connections while introducing colors, numbers, letters, shapes, and early math processes through humorous stories, rhymes, and songs. Children easily “Sing & Read” as they gain confidence, retain information, and learn basic skills to become successful readers. Together, Let’s CELEBRATE Learning!

CHILD’S PLAY, INC.

BOOTH 208

250 Minot Avenue
Auburn, ME 04210

Julie Gaudette

Email: julie@childsplayusa.com

Phone: (800) 639-6404

Fax: (207) 784-7358

Child’s Play is a leading international publisher of children’s books promoting learning through play. Our focus is early childhood, and we recognize that books play a vital role in building the foundation for learning from an early age to develop an inquiring mind and a lifelong love of reading. Respected and loved by parents, educators, and most importantly children, Child’s Play has a history of creating innovative, award-winning inclusive books with vibrant illustrations positively portraying children of all cultures, nationalities, genders, and abilities, helping children to develop an understanding of our diverse society.

Exhibitors

COMPTIA BOOTH 203

3500 Lacey Road
Downers Grove, IL 60515
Michael Barnes

Email: mbarnes@comptia.org
Phone: (317) 919-6178

The Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) is a leading voice and advocate for the \$5 trillion global information technology ecosystem and the estimated 75 million industry and tech professionals who design, implement, manage, and safeguard the technology that powers the world's economy. We impact more than one million people every year, and our affordable training solutions can be found in community colleges, online universities, and training providers. Through our partnerships, we advance the IT workforce by providing a comprehensive solution, including learning resources, training, and skills validation through our vendor-neutral certifications.

CRISS COLE REHABILITATION CENTER AND WHITE CANE DAY BOOTH 319

4800 N. Lamar Boulevard
Austin, TX 78756
Jessica Glasebrook

Dual Customer Coordinator
Email: jessica.glasebrook@twc.texas.gov
Phone: (737) 329-1122
Website: <https://twc.texas.gov/programs/criss-cole-rehabilitation-center-program-overview>

The mission of White Cane Day is to educate the world about blindness, helping blind and visually impaired individuals live and work independently while contributing to their community, and celebrate the abilities and successes achieved and honor the many contributions being made by blind and visually impaired people in a

sighted world. Come learn more about this special day and get tips on how to start a White Cane Day event in your area. Check out our website at www.whitecaneday.org or call/text Alison at (512) 284-3296. Also, we will have a Cane Travel Experience for anyone interested in working with an Orientation and Mobility (O&M) Instructor from Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center for the Blind. During this 15-minute experience you will learn techniques on how the blind travel with a long white cane and use other senses.

CVS HEALTH—WORKFORCE INITIATIVES DEPARTMENT BOOTH 214

Liaisons for Texas Workforce
Yani Bennett Hurst, Senior Manager
Email: esther.hurst@cvshealth.com
Phone: (972) 841-1098
Sharon Correa, Manager
Email: sharon.correa@cvshealth.com
Phone: (346) 379-0934
Eliza Charles, Associate Manager
Email: eliza.charles@cvshealth.com
Phone: (401) 259-1009
Website: <http://www.CVSHealth.com>
Workforce Initiatives: wi.info@cvshealth.com
Workforce Initiatives Programs: <https://cvshealth.com/about/diversity/workforce-development-programs>

Part of building a healthy workforce is collaborating with national, state, and local organizations to not only make jobs available for those who need them but also to create lifelong careers. CVS Health offers a variety of programs to promote successful employment transitions, career development, and advancement. It is all part of CVS Health's commitment to fulfill its purpose: Bringing our heart to every moment of your health™.

Exhibitors

The CVS Health Workforce Initiatives team develops traditionally untapped and underserved sources of talent to connect potential with opportunities for meaningful employment. We cultivate skilled workers and quality partners aligned with our mission and values invested in continued success and positioned to make a difference in their communities.

Our core programs are Youth, Military, Abilities, Faith-based, Second-chance, Mature workers, Registered Apprenticeships, and Workforce Innovation Talent Centers (WITC). Subsidiaries of CVS Health include CVS/Pharmacy, Caremark, Omnicare, Coram, MinuteClinic, Aetna, and more. Please visit our booth to learn more and review our career chart and training programs.

DAIVERGENT BOOTH 301

17 State Street, Suite 4000

Byran Dai

Email: bdai@daivergent.com

Info: hello@daivergent.com

Website: <https://www.daivergent.com>

Daivergent is the first all-virtual TWS-VR approved service provider for Texans with disabilities who are enrolled in vocational rehabilitation. Founded in 2017, we provide a full range of employment services, including vocational evaluation, bundled/non-bundled job placement services, and job skills training, which are delivered 100 percent remotely by our highly skilled job skills trainers and job placement specialists. Our services are available in a classroom or 1:1 setting and delivered live using our accessible video conferencing platform.

Daivergent focuses on 21st-century work-from-home and computer-based careers in Customer Service, Information Technology, Graphic Design, and Administration/ Clerical. Placements occur in competitive integrated employment settings, with over 600 customers achieving favorable employment outcomes.

CODING DOJO BOOTH 514

1575 Garden of the Gods Road, Suite 100
Colorado Springs, CO 80907

Lorenzo Martinelli

VP of Partnerships

Email: lmartinelli@codingdojo.com

Phone: (214) 226-2206

Coding Dojo is a global technology education company dedicated to transforming lives through digital literacy and skills training. Through a combination of instructor-led lectures, online learning platform resources, and hands-on development of applications, Coding Dojo aims to equip students with the foundational skills in web development, cybersecurity, and data science to not only create opportunities for them today, but also ensure that they are self-sufficient well into the future. Additionally, Coding Dojo partners with local workforce agencies and educational institutions to offer eligible participants 100 percent tuition-covered training programs.

Exhibitors

EAST TEXAS LIGHTHOUSE FOR THE BLIND BOOTH 216

411 W. Front Street
Tyler, TX 75702
Amy Anderson

Email: aanderson@tylerlighthouse.org
Phone: (888) 565-3852
Website: www.tylerlighthouse.org

At East Texas Lighthouse for the Blind, we empower the blind. Through rehabilitation, education, training, and employment, we provide customized support for independence and self-actualization. As approved TWC-VR contractors, we provide Assistive Technology evaluations and training to Texans with vision loss.

ECONOVUE BOOTH 303

4250 Fairfax Drive, Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22203
Ulisse Gallo

Email: gallo@econovue.com
Phone: (571) 527-4921
Website: www.econovue.com

EconoVue™ is an analytics software company accelerating business engagement for workforce development across state and local agencies. EconoVue's intuitive data visualization platform, built on top of the Dun & Bradstreet Data Cloud, allows you to filter businesses for targeted outreach by location, sector, size, risk, growth, and diversity in seconds. EconoVue supports all Local Workforce Development Board (Board) programs, such as job placements in healthy companies, large and small, apprenticeships, re-entry and

DEI programs, layoff aversion, rapid re-employment, work experience, on-the-job training, and grant programs. EconoVue combines map-based views with best-in-class business, workforce, industry, and company financial health data. This actionable data and analysis enable industry sector and trend analysis, business research, and time-series data comparisons to improve targeted business outreach. With EconoVue, Boards can predict the health of local businesses, target with greater precision and speed, and succeed through early engagement for greater impact.

ED2GO/CENGAGE GROUP BOOTH 200

41923 Second Street
Temecula, CA 92590
Jesse Shaw

Email: jesse.shaw@cengage.com
Phone: (951) 501-6439
Website: www.ed2go.com

ed2go is the industry leader in affordable online learning for adults. Through their academic partnerships, they help more than 2,000 colleges and universities expand their noncredit, continuing education offerings. And with their workforce agency collaboration, they unite Local Workforce Development Boards with academic institutions to deliver relevant training solutions for today's in-demand industries.

Exhibitors

EMPYRA

BOOTH 401

8081 Royal Ridge Parkway, Suite 160

Irving, TX 75063

Travis Shepard

Email: tshepard@empyra.com

Phone: (763) 226-8021

Empyra's myOneFlow is the leading WIOA case management software in Texas and nationwide. With configurable portals for clients, staff, and employers, myOneFlow provides comprehensive tools for case management, reporting and analytics, labor exchange, fiscal/grant tracking, referrals, and more, in a single connected platform. myOneFlow is helping numerous workforce and adult education programs across Texas scale their programs and serve more clients by streamlining the participant journey, reducing administrative burden, and automating compliance.

myOneFlow's AI-powered platform displays personalized online portals through which clients and staff can access information, see relevant action items, submit documents and forms, and more. Its powerful workflow engine eliminates process deviations to ensure that documents are uploaded and required forms are submitted on time. Client data is organically collected and auto-populated into PIRL and other federally required extracts for one-click reporting. Additionally, myOneFlow's robust form builder can digitize paper-based documents for easy and secure electronic signing and sharing. myOneFlow is transforming the way workforce development organizations serve their communities—are you in the network?

ENGEN

BOOTH 307

7200 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 500

Bethesda, MD 20815

Tadd Wamester

Email: Tadd@getengen.com

Phone: (646) 249-5732

Website: getengen.com

EnGen is a Certified B Corporation that delivers personalized, career-aligned, mobile-first English language upskilling to immigrants, refugees, and speakers of other languages across the United States. Using patented technology that has served over four million language learners worldwide, EnGen is powered by real-world, industry-relevant content and coaching. The platform's science-based, sector-specific approach is proven to help adult learners—internationally trained professionals and those with limited formal education—meet their educational and employment goals in high-demand fields. Working with Fortune 500 companies, regional employers, higher education, apprenticeship programs, and government institutions, EnGen is advancing economic mobility, workforce inclusion, and talent pipeline development at the scale needed to serve both new American workers and the US workforce.

Exhibitors

FROG STREET PRESS

BOOTH 219

Website: www.frogstreet.com

Frog Street is a leading provider of comprehensive early childhood education solutions to public schools, Head Start programs, and early child-care centers, with a focus on children from birth to age 5. Frog Street's curriculum programs are based on early brain research and provide intentional age-appropriate instruction that is aligned to both federal and state standards. The company also develops engaging and interactive professional development programs, including product training, conferences, continuing education, and quality assessment tools to measure students' progress. To learn more, please visit www.frogstreet.com

GEOGRAPHIC SOLUTIONS, INC.

BOOTH 207

1001 Omaha Circle
Palm Harbor, FL 34683

Tim Duffy

Email: tduffy@geosolinc.com

Phone: (727) 786-7955

Fax: (727) 786-5871

Geographic Solutions is the leading provider of integrated software for state and local workforce agencies in more than 35 states and US territories. For 30 years, the company has developed innovative online solutions for job seekers, employers, service providers, and agency staff that enhance service delivery and increase customer satisfaction. Geographic Solutions' custom software solutions effectively manage all federally funded partner programs under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act and have been designed specifically to meet the diverse needs of American Job Centers, economic development agencies, and educational institutions. Flagship products

include Virtual OneStop®, Virtual LMI®, Virtual OneStop Reentry Employment Opportunities (VOS REO), America's Labor Market Analyzer (ALMA)®, America's Virtual OneStop®, Virtual Career Center, Reemployment Exchange® (REX), and the Geographic Solutions Unemployment System (GUS)®.

LEARNINGMATE

BOOTH 305

100 Canal Pointe Boulevard, Suite 123
Princeton, NJ 08540

Melissa Sadler-Nitu

Email: melissa.sadlernitu@learningmate.com

Phone: (830) 609-8581

JobReady by LearningMate is the most powerful job readiness system for workforce development practitioners. JobReady helps users learn the right skills at the right time to obtain the proper credentials and prepare for industry certification. JobReady assesses participants, guides them on appropriate career pathways, and connects them with target-demand employment training opportunities. Beyond aptitudes and interests, JobReady begins with a CareerFit assessment, which provides a science-based, unbiased approach to assessing cognitive skills, abilities, and interests to help people discover how they best fit in the local workforce ecosystem.

Leveraging digital connections between best-in-class platforms—including Skillsoft, InterPlay, Weston Online, Workforce Ready Concepts, EnGen, and 180 Skills—JobReady curates custom job-readiness skills aligned to sector-based industries. The result? Career counselors save time, job seekers find the right fit, and learners achieve competency-based, industry-recognized credentials. JobReady: It starts with an assessment and ends with a career path.

Exhibitors

LENA

BOOTH 210

361 Centennial Parkway, Suite 100
Louisville, CO 80027

Ginger Galban

Regional Partnership Director

Email: gingergalban@lena.org

Phone: (682) 244-9422

LENA is a national nonprofit on a mission to transform children's futures through early talk technology and data-driven programs. With a goal to serve more than 100,000 children annually worldwide by 2025, the organization is scaling quickly and partnering with state agencies, school districts, public health initiatives, university-community partnerships, child care resource and referral (CCR&R) services, libraries, and more.

LENA Grow is a practice-based professional development program for early childhood educators that uses LENA's widely validated "talk pedometer" technology and strengths-based coaching. LENA Grow helps early childhood educators improve language environments equitably and truly connect with each and every child in their care. To date, more than 5,000 teachers and 20,000 children ages 0-5 have participated in LENA Grow, showing evidence of improved language development for children and increased job satisfaction among teachers, along with improved CLASS® and TS Gold® scores.

LIGHTCAST

BOOTH 300

232 N. Almon Street
Moscow, ID 83843

Connie Sharp

Email: connie.sharp@lightcast.io

Phone: (208) 883-3500

Direct: (208) 301-4115

Website: www.lightcast.io

Lightcast empowers economic and workforce development organizations with trusted labor market data, analytics, and expert guidance. Enabling informed decision-making in today's complex world of work, Lightcast data drives strategies for job attraction, upskilling opportunities, and effective policy development, leading to increased prosperity and economic mobility for local businesses and residents. In April 2023, Lightcast acquired Gazelle, a unique business intelligence platform. Gazelle utilizes diverse data sets and a proprietary AI model to rank companies based on their potential for expansion, focusing on fast-growing and high-potential businesses. For more information, visit www.lightcast.io.

Exhibitors

METRIX LEARNING/WORKFORCE180 BOOTH 206

225 E. Robinson Street
Orlando, FL 32801

Sandy Mead

Email: sandy.mead@metrixlearning.com

Phone: (734) 718-2515

Metrix Learning's eLearning portal provides a customizable training solution for state agencies, Local Workforce Development Boards, community organizations, and their customers. Our goal is simple: to promote career pathways that drive economic prosperity. Learners may assess their job skills, remediate skill gaps, and gain credentials to prepare for new employment opportunities. Our online portal delivers more than 7,000 courses, 10 career pathways representing 200+ occupations, and hundreds of certification opportunities made simple through a confidence-building, self-directed, eLearning platform that helps circumvent common job seeker barriers. Metrix Learning serves as a virtual extension of resources that connects directly to your community and complements your existing job seeker and employer services.

NAWDP BOOTH 606

P.O. Box 221

West Plains, MO 65775

David Barch

Director of Membership and Certification

Email: david@nawdp.org

Phone: (877) 202-2472

The National Association of Workforce Development Professionals (NAWDP) is a professional association representing individual workforce development and human resources practitioners who connect job seekers, educators, and companies to

advance the American economy. NAWDP provides the professional development, resources, and certification credibility to individuals seeking to thrive in the workforce development industry as thought leaders and innovators. As the leading advocate for workforce development professionals, NAWDP builds relationships and connections with other industry-leading organizations to challenge and collaborate for the advancement of the industry.

NR SWANKS FREIGHT BROKERAGE LLC BOOTH 504

13531 Will Clayton Parkway, Suite 300
Humble, TX 77346

Nikisha Reagan

Email: nrswanks@nrsfb.net

Phone: (832) 889-8293

NR Swanks Freight Brokerage LLC is an essential resource for those seeking to become Freight Brokers & Freight Dispatchers within the transportation industry. This program is tailored to provide participants with the necessary expertise to orchestrate freight transports across the United States independently, whether as independent contractors or employees of transportation companies. This training was designed for individuals who show no interest in obtaining a CDL or driving an 18-wheeler. The training program has been developed to cater to a variety of learning styles, including auditory, visual, and written materials, ensuring that every student receives the best learning experience possible. With this program, students can be confident that they will acquire valuable skills to succeed in the transportation industry.

Exhibitors

PEARSON ELL

BOOTH 113

221 River Street
Hoboken, TX 07030
Kenya Preuninger
Key Account Manager, Texas

Pearson English: Meeting the Challenges of Today's Adult Education. The most comprehensive solutions for WIOA, IET, and IEL/CE include the following:

- The global scale of English is aligned to the Employability Skills Framework
- Workforce preparation, CCRS, ELPS, CASAS competencies
- Skills for employability, soft skills, literacy, career pathways
- English for work, life, and academic success
- English and civics for US citizenship

PREMIER VIRTUAL

BOOTH 413

430 NE Fifth Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33483
Steven Edwards

Premier Virtual is a Veteran owned SaaS platform designed for virtual events that currently works with several School Boards, almost 200 Local Workforce Development Boards and many Veteran Organizations in the US. Premier Virtual Annual license holders will have the ability to hold unlimited events with no restrictions on dates and no additional add-on fees when new enhancements are added. There are no limitations to users/attendees/organizations/video usage. When you are a customer with Premier Virtual, you will be assigned a Dedicated Client Success Manager (CSM). The CSM will provide live training sessions for any team members who will be working in the platform. PV

analytics track over 160 datapoints to give you all the data you need. With a built-in video platform, you have the ability to host webinars, one-on-one and group videos directly on the platform.

QS DBA QuickStart Academy

BOOTH 107

1101 S. Capital of Texas Highway,
Building JS
Austin, TX 78746
Hayden Jones
Email: hayden.jones@quickstart.com
Phone: (512) 559-4102

QuickStart offers IT training for emerging and established professionals in the field. For 35 years, QuickStart has partnered with IT experts and hiring managers to develop industry-aligned certificate courses and boot camp training programs. Through online learning tailored to the latest developments in AWS (Amazon We Services), Cisco, CompTIA, Microsoft Azure, and more, QuickStart empowers entry-level and experienced IT professionals with leading-edge skills in the workforce.

To best prepare students for professional success, QuickStart offers personalized learning plans and career support services, including résumé building, coaching, and job placement. Students emerge ready to add value to their organizations, improve their earning power, and achieve their professional goals.

As one of the fastest-growing industries, information technology (IT) offers countless opportunities for professionals to advance. Whether you're new to the field or planning for your next promotion, QuickStart provides the IT training you need to stay current and competitive. Qualified candidates can get funding through their nearest American Jobs Center.

Exhibitors

TAD GRANTS LLC

BOOTH 612

138 Beadle Lake Drive
Battle Creek, MI 49014

Tressa Dorsey

Email: tressa@tadgrants.com

Phone: (916) 899-0038

Since 2008, TAD Grants has provided high quality services to organizations and businesses nationwide. TAD Grants' primary focus and expertise lies in grant writing services, technical assistance coaching, program evaluation and reporting, organizational training solutions, and strategic planning services. To maximize effectiveness, TAD Grants strives to build long-term relationships with those that we serve—our wraparound services, ongoing consultation, and follow-up programs have proven to equip our clients with the tools that they need to ensure that they meet and exceed their desired outcomes.

TEACHING STRATEGIES, LLC

BOOTH 506

4500 East West Highway, Suite 300
Bethesda, MD 20814

Aaron Sever

Email: aaron.s@teachingstrategies.com

Phone: (214) 558-9909

For 40 years, Teaching Strategies has provided early childhood educators with innovative and effective research-proven resources to help build a strong foundation for our youngest learners.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

BOOTH 610

221 E. 11th Street
Austin, TX 78701

Rita Gonzales-Garza

Email: rita.garza@tdhca.state.tx.us

Phone: (512) 475-3905

The Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Community Affairs Division, administers the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG). CSBG funds are received from the US Department of Health and Human Services and provided to 38 community action agencies (referred to as CSBG-eligible entities) designated to serve one or more counties in Texas. CSBG funds provide assistance to state and local communities for the reduction of poverty, the revitalization of low-income communities, and the empowerment of low-income families and individuals to become fully self-sufficient. CSBG-eligible entities operate an array of programs to meet the needs of low-income individuals, to provide case management and support services to individuals working to transition out of poverty, to provide emergency assistance, and to support an array of programs administered by the CSBG-eligible entities. Targeted beneficiaries are individuals at or below 125 percent of the Federal Poverty Income Guidelines.

Exhibitors

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION FIDELITY BONDING PROGRAM BOOTH 602

101 E. 15th Street, Room 440T

Austin, TX 78778

Mikayla Fasl

Email: mikayla.fasl@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (737) 471-1402

The Texas Workforce Commission's Fidelity Bonding Program (FBP) provides many benefits for both job seekers and employers. Fidelity bonding protects employers and serves as an effective employer incentive for hiring certain at-risk individuals. For job seekers who have difficulty securing employment, FBP helps address barriers to employment and offers an opportunity to prove skills and build self-confidence. Fidelity bonding is a six-month business insurance policy for employers to hire, retain, and promote certain at-risk individuals. The employer simply makes the applicant a job offer and sets a start date for the individual. Visit our booth to learn more about fidelity bonding and how FBP provides opportunities for employers and job seekers.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION INFORMATION INNOVATION & INSIGHT BOOTH 503

Information Innovation & Insight (I|3) structures and analyzes the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) data and leads business transformation initiatives. We equip TWC and its partners with the knowledge they need to make informed decisions that cultivate economic prosperity and ensure high-quality service delivery to Texas employers, individuals, families, and communities.

I|3's booth will focus on our three departments. You'll learn more about what

each department has to offer, our plans for the future, and how you can provide feedback to help us best meet your data needs.

- Analytics Infrastructure Department (AID) builds tools, data sets, and visualizations. We have spent the last year designing new tools for TWC partners and are now launching many of these innovations. Stop by our booth and experience for yourself what we have done, learn about where we are going, and give us ideas for the future!
- Analytics & Evaluation (A&E) provides TWC leaders and partners with insightful data analytics and evaluation to help guide the Texas workforce system. The primary programs we empower with data include Adult Education and Literacy, Career and Training, Child Care & Early Learning, Unemployment Insurance, Program Integrity, and Vocational Rehabilitation. Learn about how we are pioneering the application of modern data science techniques, such as machine learning, to improve government support functions.
- Labor Market Information (LMI) is the primary source for collecting, processing, and disseminating labor market data to help customers make informed choices for a variety of purposes, including business investment decisions, career exploration, and workforce planning. LMI directly connects to customers by providing occupational wage information, unemployment rates, occupational projections, and employment estimates within a network of user-friendly online delivery systems, such as TexasWages.com and TexasLMI.com. Make our booth your first stop for labor market information and allow LMI representatives to demonstrate our products.

Exhibitors

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION OFFICE OF APPRENTICESHIP BOOTH 402

101 E. 15th Street, Room 440T
Austin, TX 78778

Desi Holmes

Email: apprenticeshiptexas@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 463-7950

The Texas Workforce Commission's Office of Apprenticeship serves both employers and job seekers the apprenticeship training model. Apprenticeship is a training model that combines on-the-job training and related classroom instruction in which workers learn the practical and theoretical aspects of a highly skilled occupation. Apprenticeship starts with employers that want to recruit, train, and retain their quality workforce. Visit our booth to learn more about how the Office of Apprenticeship works with employers and other workforce partners that are interested in apprenticeship. You can also gain insight into resources available to support the development and implementation of the apprenticeship training model and build local knowledge, including how to add local apprenticeship navigators at the Local Workforce Development Board and community college levels.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION OFFICE OF INVESTIGATIONS BOOTH 218

101 E. 15th Street, Room 570
Austin, TX 78778

Emilia Montoya

Email: emilia.montoya@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 463-1053

Our mission is to support TWC's commitment to the highest standards of accountability in its handling and expenditure of public funds. This is accomplished by providing selected inquiry and investigative services pertaining to allegations of fraud, theft, program abuse, or misconduct.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION OIB PROGRAM BOOTH 512

Email: oib.info@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 936-3388

The Texas Workforce Commission Vocation Rehabilitation Division (TWC-VR) Older Individuals Who Are Blind (OIB) program serves individuals 55 years of age and older with significant visual impairments and who need assistance with independent living skills, technology, and support services. If you are or know someone who is 55 years of age or older and has a vision impairment that makes everyday tasks difficult, the OIB program may be able to help you gain the confidence and skills to live independently. Come visit our booth for more information. To speak to a specialist about OIB services, please call the OIB helpline at (844) NEED-OIB (633-3642).

Exhibitors

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION OUTREACH AND EMPLOYER INITIATIVES DIVISION EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH BOOTH 202

101 E. 15th Street, Room 380
Austin, TX 78778

Email: skills@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (877) 463-1777

TWC's Outreach and Employer Initiatives Division houses the Education Outreach (EO) department. EO's task is to collect labor market data from TWC to produce resources and presentations for education partners. From students, parents, teachers, and counselors to administrators, we provide presentations, workshops, and professional development sessions, all to help students make better-informed career decisions.

The EO network has expanded to 20 additional Local Workforce Development Board areas, and this network of Career Coaches collaborates to provide outreach services to students across the state.

In addition, EO connects with public community, technical, state colleges; school districts; and charter schools to provide opportunities to apply for the JET grant, which enables recipients to purchase and install equipment necessary to provide career and technical education courses or programs that lead to high-demand occupations.

EO partners with Texas A&M, Exxon Mobil, and Southern Methodist University on the annual Texas Science and Engineering Fair and Governor's Champions Academy.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION OUTREACH AND EMPLOYER INITIATIVES DIVISION EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH BOOTH 204

101 E. 15th Street, Room 380
Austin, TX 78778

Email: skills@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (877) 463-1777

The Skills Development Fund (SDF) is Texas' premier upskilling program that provides training funds to benefit Texas businesses and their employees. SDF grants provide site-specific, customized training opportunities to increase the skill levels and wages of the Texas workforce. Eligible applicants include public community and technical colleges, the Texas Engineering Extension Service (TEEX), community-based organizations in partnership with a community or technical college or TEEX.

The grants help businesses by funding the design and implementation of customized job-training programs.

SDF grants pay for the training, the eligible applicant administers the grant, and businesses create new jobs and improve the skills of their current workers.

EECO provides technical support to the following workforce training grants:

- Skills Development Fund
- Skills for Small Business
- Self Sufficiency Fund
- High Demand Job Training
- Texas Industry Partnerships

Exhibitors

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION RESEA BOOTH 103

1117 Trinity Street, Room 416T
Austin, TX 78701

Douglas Laxson

Email: douglas.laxson@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (785) 209-8759

Reemployment Services and Eligibility Assessment Program (RESEA) is designed to address the individual reemployment needs of UI Claimants and to prevent and detect improper payments. RESEA is both a Workforce and a UI Program, providing UI Claimants with a wide array of available resources that support reemployment and connect them to career services.

RESEA has four purposes:

1. To improve employment outcomes
2. To strengthen program integrity and reduce improper UI payments
3. To promote the alignment with WIOA
4. To establish RESEA as an entry point into other workforce system partner programs

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION REHABILITATION COUNCIL OF TEXAS BOOTH 513

101 E. 15th Street
Austin, TX 78778

RCT Chairman: Gennadiy Goldenshteyn

RCT Vice Chairman: James Williams

RCT Coordinator: Lisa Godwin

Email: lisa.godwin@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (979) 480-2826

State rehabilitation councils were established by federal law to provide community input to state vocational rehabilitation agencies.

The Rehabilitation Council of Texas (RCT) mission is to advise and partner with the vocational rehabilitation agency to ensure Texans with disabilities have access to an effective vocational rehabilitation service delivery system leading to meaningful employment.

RCT, the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWS-VRS) partner in a variety of ways, including, evaluating customer satisfaction with services provided by TWS-VRS, helping develop the state plan and state goals and priorities, evaluating the effectiveness of the vocational rehabilitation program, reviewing and commenting on policy, facilitating public hearings, reviewing the effectiveness of and customer satisfaction with providers and the employment customers obtain, making recommendations to TWS-VRS to improve vocational rehabilitation services, and obtaining public feedback and opinion on the vocational rehabilitation program.

If you would like to become a member or attend a quarterly meeting, or provide public comment, please contact RCT Coordinator at 979-480-2826 or by visiting the RCT webpage.

Exhibitors

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION RISK & SECURITY MANAGEMENT BOOTH 302

1117 Trinity Street, Room 304T
Austin, TX 78701

Gena Garcia

Email: gena.garcia@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 756-3393

The Risk & Security Management Department (RSM) oversees risk management, safety, physical security, privacy, and continuity of operations programs for the Texas Workforce Commission. Our mission is to serve as a resource to promote and protect TWC's employees, contractors, and customers by effectively managing and mitigating risk. We invite you to visit our booth and explore our comprehensive display, where you can learn more about a diverse range of risk topics and spin the Wheel of Risk. We will have information on workplace safety, protecting personal and confidential information, physical security awareness tips and how to ensure your essential functions continue during and after an emergency or disaster, and much more.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT BOOTH 101

101 E. 15th Street, Room 274
Austin, TX 78778

Laura Marin

Email: laura.marin@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 936-3857

Fax: (512) 463-9375

One of the greatest benefits that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) offers its employees and partners is the opportunity for professional growth. The Training and Development Department (T&D) offers classes in management, vocational rehabilitation, human dynamics (soft skills), software applications, and agency compliance. Classes are free for TWC employees. Local Workforce Development Boards and Texas Workforce Solutions local service providers pay a low cost-recovery fee. Please stop by to get a course catalog and to discover how we can help meet your training needs.

Exhibitors

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE DIVISION BOOTH 201

101 E. 15th Street

Austin, TX 78778

Eric Holen

Email: eric.holen@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 463-7234

The TWC Unemployment Insurance (UI) Division serves as “economic first responders” providing temporary, partial income replacement to eligible individuals who have lost jobs through no fault of their own. Funded through employer taxes, UI services afford job seekers the stability to search for their next career and return to full-time work.

Services range from taking UI claims and helping job seekers return to work, to investigators making eligibility decisions, to tax account examiners helping employers with their taxes, subject to the Texas Unemployment Compensation Act (TUCA). The UI program serves more than 650,000 Texas employers and 700,000 claimants annually.

In addition to serving claimants and their families, the UI program strengthens the Texas economy by providing skilled workers and fostering consumer spending.

The UI Division works as a closely-knit team, serving customers with respect and understanding, guided by the division motto of being “E.P.I.C.”, (Engage, Promote, Inform and Continuously Improving).

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION TEXAS VETERAN’S LEADERSHIP PROGRAM BOOTH 511

101 E. 15th Street, Room 526T

Austin, TX 78778

Bob Gear

Email: bobby.gear@twc.texas.gov

Phone: (512) 936-6024

Fax: (512) 463-9742

The Texas Veterans Leadership Program (TVLP) employs 20 Veterans Resource and Referral Specialists (VRRSs) across the state who outreach veterans and transitioning service members to ensure that they are directed to any help they need in order to eventually return to work. This program puts special attention on those individuals facing specific or complex challenges as they reintegrate into the workforce.

All VRRSs understand the unique needs that veterans and transitioning service members face. Since July 2008, TVLP has contacted 53,830 veterans and has provided services to 44,548 OEF/OIF/OND/OFS/OIR/ORS/CJTF HOA veterans. Although not the primary focus, TVLP also helps non-OEF/OIF/OND/OFS/OIR/ORS/RSM/CJTF HOA veterans, if help is requested. The total number of Texas veterans assisted is 50,064.

College Credit for Heroes

The College Credit for Heroes initiative seeks to maximize college credits awarded to veterans and service members for their military experience in order to expedite their transition into the Texas workforce. The initiative’s goal is to eliminate obstacles to attaining licensing, certification and accreditation, and degree awards at state and national levels so that veterans may transition more quickly from college classrooms to the workforce. College Credit for Heroes focuses on partner schools developing their own methods of evaluating the veterans Joint Service Transcripts.

Exhibitors

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION DIVISION BOOTH 419

101 E. 15th Street, Room 101CT
Austin, TX 78778

Michelle Szumski, MEd, CRC, LPC
Program Specialist for Assistive and
Rehabilitation Technology

Email: michelle.szumski@twc.texas.gov
Phone: (512) 669-6692

Cynthia McCabe

Program Specialist for Assistive and
Rehabilitation Technology

Email: cynthia.mccabe@twc.texas.gov
Phone: (512) 936-3661

Ron Clark

Program Specialist for Employment
Assistance and Assistive Technology
Support

Email: ronald.clark@twc.texas.gov
Phone: (512) 936-3463

The Texas Workforce Commission
Vocational Rehabilitation (TWC-VR)

Division partners with businesses to provide prescreened, qualified applicants to help employers find and keep valued employees. VR services are tailored to meet business needs. Visit the VR exhibit to find out how TWC-VR can help your customers become employed. The VR exhibit booth will have different types of assistive technology and devices that are used in the workplace for employees with disabilities.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION WORKFORCE AUTOMATION AND TECHNICAL SUPPORT BOOTH 109

101 E. 15th Street, Room 426T
Austin, TX 78778

Richard Woessner, Director

Email: richard.woessner@twc.texas.gov
Phone: (512) 936-3597

The Workforce Automation and Technical Support department helps the Workforce Development Division develop, manage, and maintain automated systems and processes that support program operations and service delivery. We are the conduit between business and IT that ensures business needs and objectives are clearly communicated, designed, and implemented. Additionally, the department supports Texas Workforce Solutions with WorkInTexas.com and The Workforce Information System of Texas (TWIST), along with other automation needs.

TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION WOTC PROGRAM BOOTH 604

Russell Hunter

Manager, WOTC

1117 Trinity Street, Room 252
Austin, TX 78701

The Work Opportunity Tax Credit (WOTC) is a federal tax break for businesses that hire people who have trouble finding jobs. The US Department of Labor (DOL) and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) regulate the WOTC program together. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers the program for the federal government. WOTC's goal is to help people get jobs, earn money, and achieve financial independence. The WOTC team is available for training staff and/or employers about the program. For more information, please visit our website at twc.texas.gov/wotc or contact our help desk at 800-695-6879.

Exhibitors

TRAIN PD @ TCALL
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
BOOTH 510
425 Ross Street
4477-TAMU
Milner Hall, Room 311
College Station, TX 77843-4477
Paula Bauer
Email: pkbauer@tamu.edu
Phone: (800) 441-7323

TRAIN PD @ TCALL is a project of the Texas Center for the Advancement of Literacy and Learning (TCALL) at Texas A&M University. Funded by the Texas Workforce Commission, it serves as the statewide professional development (PD) and resource center for the Texas Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) program.

TRAIN PD @ TCALL is responsible for delivering training—including training-of-trainer events, informational resources, and other support—to local programs, students, and stakeholders. PD center staff members, including PD specialists, are responsible for deploying statewide PD activities, identifying and recruiting additional contract trainers, developing and delivering training throughout the state (including online accessibility), and assisting AEL grant recipients and other providers with PD planning and services provision.

UNCHARTED TERRITORY SOLUTIONS
BOOTH 406
507 N. Sam Houston Parkway East,
Suite 165
Houston, TX 77060
William Hill
Email: Willh@utllcnetwork.com
Phone: (877) 834-6101
Website: Utlcnetwork.com

Uncharted Territory Solutions (UTS) is an Adult Education institution that prepares individuals for careers in health care. UTS courses are flexible, online, in-person or hybrid programs, overseen by approved certifying agencies. Ideally suited for workforce customers, participants work independently online, or remotely with instructors and meet with program staff on a regular basis. All programs can be completed within 12 weeks or less and lead to industry recognized credentials. We offer courses such as CNA, Medical Assistant, Patient Care Tech, Pharmacy Tech, and more.

UNISYS CORPORATION
BOOTH 614
101 E. 15th Street, Room 0108
Austin, TX 78778
Texas Workforce Commission
Project Management Office
Chris Chandler, Client Delivery Executive
Email: chris.chandler@unisys.com
Phone: (512) 936-3731
Direct: (512) 818-5430
Website: www.unisys.com/publicsector

Unisys is a technology solutions company that delivers successful outcomes for the most demanding organizations around the world. Unisys offers digital workplace solutions, cloud applications and infrastructure solutions, enterprise computing solutions, and business process solutions. For more information on how Unisys delivers services for its clients across the commercial, financial, and government sectors, visit unisys.com.

Exhibitors

UNT WISE WORKPLACE INCLUSION AND SUSTAINABLE EMPLOYMENT BOOTH 517

1155 Union Circle #311456

Denton, TX 76203

Email: untwise@unt.edu

Phone: (940) 565-4000

UNT WISE is located at the University of North Texas in the Rehabilitation and Health Services department. WISE's mission is to improve the quality of lives for people with disabilities by researching innovative best practices, training professionals in effective and ethical service and directly supporting the disability community. Current projects include: 1) Transition—WISE hosts summer programs (Live & Learn, College WISE, STEM, Virtual) to expose students to various career pathways and help them envision their future in a holistic manner. Transition summits and other specialized programs are available upon request. 2) Community Rehabilitation Provider (CRP) training—WISE partners with TX Vocational Rehabilitation to facilitate and manage the credentialing program for providers. 3) ENGAGE—WISE provides intensive services to help Neurodivergent UNT students succeed in college. 4) SWTCIE—WISE has partnered with TX VR on a five-year grant to make an impact on sub-minimum wage employment for people with disabilities.

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS MASTER OF SCIENCE IN REHABILITATION COUNSELING PROGRAM

BOOTH 519

Dr. Justin Watts, Program Coordinator

Email: justin.watts@unt.edu

Phone: (940) 369-8947

The Rehabilitation Counseling Master of Science program offered by the University of North Texas, Department of Rehabilitation and Health Services, offers both a traditional on-campus program for individuals who desire to become a professional in the field of rehabilitation counseling and a distance-learning online program for professionals already actively involved in the field. The program is nationally accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). The curriculum is designed to meet the Commission on Rehabilitation Counseling Certification (CRCC) requirements for national certification as a rehabilitation counselor (CRC) and licensure as a professional counselor (LPC) by the State of Texas. We also offer a Certificate in Rehabilitation Counseling for professionals who are graduates of a master's or doctoral program in a related field of study and who seek certification as a rehabilitation counselor through CRCC.

Exhibitors

US DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BOOTH 405

525 S. Griffin Street, Room 317
Dallas, TX 75202

Dudley Light
Regional Director

L. Lee Price, Texas State Director

USDOL/ETA/Office of Apprenticeship

Phone: (972) 850-4693

Email: price.lester@DOL.GOV

Registered Apprenticeship is an industry-driven, high-quality career pathway where employers can develop and prepare their future workforce, and individuals can obtain paid work experience, receive progressive wage increases, classroom instruction, and a portable, nationally recognized credential. Registered Apprenticeships (RAPs) are industry-vetted and approved and validated by the US Department of Labor or a State Apprenticeship Agency.

RAPs enable and energize more employers to participate and provide them access to larger talent pools that have been trained for entry-level to management positions, thereby meeting industry demands and reducing unemployment rates across the country.

WORKQUEST BOOTH 403

1011 E. 53 1/2 Street
Austin, TX 78751

Marie Richter

Director of Administration

Email: mrichter@workquest.com

Phone: (512) 431-9440

WorkQuest is a private, nonprofit corporation that links Texans with disabilities to meaningful employment opportunities through its partnerships with community rehabilitation programs (CRPs) across Texas. As the central nonprofit agency (CNA) working with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Purchasing from People with Disabilities (PPD) WorksWonders Program, WorkQuest helps to facilitate contracts between those CRPs and government entities.

Wednesday's Keynote Speaker



Adam "Smiley" Poswolsky
Speaker and Author
SpeakInc
10680 Treena Street, Suite 230
San Diego, CA 92131
(520) 797-1655
lcoleman@speakin.com

When companies want to increase workplace belonging, human connection, and team engagement, they call Adam "Smiley" Poswolsky. Smiley is an internationally renowned keynote speaker, workplace belonging expert, and bestselling author of three books that have been translated into multiple languages, including, most recently, *Friendship in the Age of Loneliness: An Optimist's Guide to Connection*.

Smiley shares industry-shaping insights and practical tools to attract and retain top talent across generations, create a culture

of belonging, and engage hybrid teams at world-class organizations such as Apple, Google, Verizon, JPMorgan Chase, and the US Navy. Smiley's TED talk has been viewed almost 2 million times, and he has delivered 600 keynotes in front of 250,000 people in 25 countries. Smiley's work has been featured by 100 media outlets, including *Harvard Business Review*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Fast Company*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, and the *World Economic Forum*.

Friday's Keynote Speaker



Courtney Clark
Speaker and Author
SpeakInc
10680 Treena Street, Suite 230
San Diego, CA 92131
(520) 797-1655
lcoleman@speakin.com

Courtney Clark is the luckiest unlucky person in the world. After a series of major struggles beginning in her mid-20s, she has built two successful businesses and is the author of two books, including her most recent book, *The Successful Struggle: Powerful Techniques to Achieve Accelerated Resilience*. She works with people who want to adapt faster and achieve more, and she has spoken worldwide to organizations such as Procter & Gamble, Dell, S&P, Humana, Cisco, and Cardinal Health.

Industry leaders have called Ms. Clark's resilience work "practical," "powerful," and "empowering," and she has been featured in *Forbes*, *Psychology Today*, *USA Today*, and the *Chicago Tribune*. If she wasn't writing and speaking about resilience, Ms. Clark would have wanted to be a tap dancer. Thankfully for her audiences, she wasn't very good at it.

Super Session Speakers

Mahalia Baldini

Director of Adult Education and Literacy
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 416T
Austin, TX 78778
(737) 471-1150
mahalia.baldini@twc.texas.gov

Mahalia Baldini serves as Texas' Director of Adult Education and Literacy at the Texas Workforce Commission. She manages an \$80 million annual investment that provides workforce and educational solutions to more than 70,000 Texans each year through a vast network of over 100 adult education providers across the state. She serves on many committees and workgroups both at the state and national levels. Ms. Baldini values a system that supports equitable education and learning opportunities that focus on an individual's academic preparedness and advancement as well as the social and emotional intelligence needed to contribute to a positive work culture aligned with employer needs.

Ms. Baldini earned her Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Broadcast Journalism from the University of Kentucky and her Master of Education (MEd) from Texas State University.

Joe Cooper

Training Director
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union #286,
Joint Apprenticeship and Training
Committee
814 Airport Boulevard
Austin, TX 78702
(512) 385-1817
jcooper@local286.org

Joe Cooper is the training director for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union #286 Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee in Austin. Mr. Cooper began as training director in 2013 and has been an instructor in the apprenticeship program since 2000. His experience also includes working as a field superintendent for mechanical and plumbing contractors in the Austin area and running his own plumbing company. Mr. Cooper completed his apprenticeship in 1999 and holds a current journeyman and master plumbing license with a medical gas endorsement. He is a member of the San Antonio chapter of the Apprenticeship Training Association of Texas. He is also the current president of the Central Texas chapter of American Society of Sanitary Engineering and serves on several committees. Mr. Cooper was appointed to the Apprenticeship Training and Advisory Committee of Texas in 2018. He has a passion for education and lifelong learning and earned a bachelor's degree in Construction Management Summa Cum Laude from Rowan University.

Super Session Speakers

Mark Durand

Executive Director
Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110 B
Lufkin, TX 75901
(936) 631-8610
mdurand@detwork.org

Mark Durand serves as the Executive Director of Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas, a nonprofit organization providing partnership and services to employers, job seekers, education institutions, and child care centers in the Deep East Texas workforce development area.

He has been the Executive Director since April 2017, after spending the previous 16 years in health care administration and 13 years in workforce development.

Additionally, Mr. Durand serves on the Jasper Independent School District school board and currently serves as Board President. He also held similar roles with the Jasper Chamber of Commerce and recently completed the National Association of Workforce Boards Executive Bootcamp.

Mr. Durand graduated from Sam Houston State University and holds a bachelor's degree in Management.

Anson Green

Senior Manager, Digital and Automation
Upskilling
IT Learning, Development, and Engagement
Talent and Culture
Tyson Foods
2200 W. Don Tyson Parkway
Springdale, AR 72762
(210) 307-7604
anson.green@tyson.com

Anson Green is a workforce and education trailblazer who is leading economic opportunity efforts for Tyson Foods, one of the world's largest food companies, where he builds innovative learning solutions. Mr. Green develops strategic initiatives to support the upskilling of Tyson's 121,000 frontline team members, many of whom are immigrants and refugees. His current assignments include delivering enterprise-level upskilling solutions to support Tyson's efforts to deploy digital and automation solutions and developing human-machine learning models for its diverse communities of team members. For this work, Mr. Green was awarded the President's Award by the Coalition on Adult Basic Education (2023).

Super Session Speakers

As the Director of the Texas Adult Education and Literacy program at the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Mr. Green led the transformation of the \$80 million federal program and made it a national model and a responsive solution for Texans seeking college and career-entry solutions. He was awarded the National Outstanding Administrator of the Year for his accomplishments.

Before TWC, Mr. Green directed a specialized training center in San Antonio's historic Westside at Alamo Colleges District, which was designed to provide bilingual and integrated education and training solutions for immigrants and refugees seeking access to college, training, and jobs.

Mr. Green hosts the Behind Every Employer podcast, serves on several national advisory committees, and provides technical assistance to other businesses and multiple state governments. He has also testified at Congressional briefings as well as held teaching posts at several colleges, universities, and public schools.

Mike Reeser

Chancellor and CEO
Texas State Technical College
3801 Campus Drive
Waco, TX 76705
(254) 867-4891
mike.reeser@tstc.edu

As Chancellor and CEO of Texas State Technical College (TSTC), Mike Reeser leads the only statewide public two-year technical college system with 10 campuses across Texas.

Under Mr. Reeser's leadership, TSTC has become well-known as an innovator in higher education operations. Two of the most noteworthy innovations are as follows: The Returned-Value Funding Formula: a state-funding method based solely on student employment outcomes rather than on an enrollment census

The Money-Back Employment Guarantee: an employment assurance program that refunds tuition to students who cannot find a job after earning a TSTC degree

Before being appointed Chancellor in 2010, Mr. Reeser served the college in various roles, including Chief Financial Officer, TSTC President, and Dean of Instruction. In the early half of his career, he was a banker who served in executive and management roles in Houston and Waco.

Mr. Reeser holds a bachelor's degree from Texas A&M University and an MBA from the University of Texas in Arlington.

Super Session Speakers

Randy Townsend

Deputy Executive Director
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 654
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 463-2698
randy.townsend@twc.texas.gov

Randy Townsend has served as Deputy Executive Director for the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) since October 2019. Mr. Townsend helps TWC's Executive Director with day-to-day operations, including implementation of policies set by the three-member Commission. TWC has almost 4,500 staff dedicated to the agency's mission of promoting and supporting a workforce system that creates value and offers employers, individuals, and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

Additionally, Mr. Townsend provides direction and support for the following TWC divisions: Business Operations, Civil Rights, Customer Care, Finance, and Fraud Deterrence and Compliance Monitoring.

Beginning in January 1997, Mr. Townsend served as the agency's Chief Financial Officer (CFO). As CFO, he managed TWC's Finance Division (100 staff members) and was responsible for the effective management and oversight of the agency's \$2 billion budget.

Before joining TWC, Mr. Townsend began his career in Texas state government with the State Auditor's Office (SAO) in July 1982. During his time at the SAO, he served 10 years as an audit manager, directing and overseeing audits of various state agencies and universities.

Mr. Townsend graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting. He is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Super Session Speakers

Ken Treviño

President and CEO

Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend

400 Mann Street, Suite 800

Corpus Christi, TX 78401

(361) 885-3016

ken.trevino@workforcesolutionscb.org

Ken Treviño is the President and CEO of Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend. Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend invests in regional economic success by ensuring Texans have access to jobs, training, and employer services offered at seven employment centers throughout the 11-county Coastal Bend region.

Mr. Treviño has been with Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend since 2010. Prior to his service at Workforce Solutions of the Coastal Bend, he was the Executive Vice President at the Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce. He is a graduate of the University of Texas at San Antonio where he earned a degree in Political Science. Mr. Treviño has credentials from Loyola Marymount University–Los Angeles, Institute of Organization Management, and the University of Oklahoma, Economic Development Institute.

He is highly engaged in his community and serves on numerous local, state, and national Boards, including:

- Del Mar College Foundation, Trustee
- Corpus Christi Medical Center, Trustee
- United Corpus Christi Chamber of Commerce, Ex-Officio Board Member
- Corpus Christi Regional Economic Development Corporation, Ex-Officio Member
- Education to Employment Partners, Board Member, and Immediate Past Chair
- Texas Executive Directors Council, Board Member, and Past Chair
- Texas Association of Workforce Boards, Secretary 2011–2018
- US Conference of Mayors, Workforce Development Council, Trustee
- New Ways to Work, National Board of Directors
- Leadership Corpus Christi (LCC) Class 27, Graduate
- LCC Class 29, Selection Chair
- LCC Class 30, Steering Committee Chair
- LCC Alumni Chair, 2006
- LCC Alumni Roast, Honoree

Speakers

Mahalia Baldini

Director of Adult Education and Literacy
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 416T
Austin, TX 78778
(737) 471-1150
mahalia.baldini@twc.texas.gov

E. Yani Diaz Bennett

Senior Manager
CVS Health, Workforce Initiatives
175 Broad Street, Suite 296
Glens Falls, NY 12801
(972) 841-1098
esther.diazbennett@cvshealth.com

Brenda Burmeister

Work-Based Learning Coordinator
San Antonio Independent School District
514 W. Quincy Street
San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 554-2610
bburmeister1@saisd.net

Joy Burress

Project SEARCH National Consultant
Project SEARCH @ Cincinnati
Children's Hospital
3333 Burnet Avenue, MLC 5030
Cincinnati, OH 45229
(513) 266-1042
joy.burress@cchmc.org

Courtney Clark

Speaker and Author
SpeakInc
10680 Treena Street, Suite 230
San Diego, CA 92131
(520) 797-1655
lcoleman@speakin.com

Eric Cooper

CEO
San Antonio Food Bank
5200 Historic Old Highway 90
San Antonio, TX 78227
(210) 337-3663
ecooper@safoodbank.org

Joe Cooper

Training Director
Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union #286
Joint Apprenticeship and
Training Committee
814 Airport Boulevard
Austin, TX 78702
(512) 385-1817
jcooper@local286.org

Richard Davidson

Chief Operating Officer
Family Service Association of
San Antonio, Inc.
702 San Pedro Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 299-2412
rdavidson@Family-Service.org

Josh Davies

Director of Workforce
Aztec Software
2907 Huron Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80202
(303) 433-3243
jdavies@aztecsoftware.com

Ana De Hoyos O'Connor

Professor/Community Coordinator
Early Childhood Studies
San Antonio College
1819 N. Main Street
San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 486-0509
aoconnor9@alamo.edu

Speakers

Alma Duldulao-Ybarra

Chief People Officer
Goodwill Houston
1140 West Loop North Freeway
Houston, TX 77573
(832) 431-4473
aybarra@goodwillhouston.org

Mark Durand

Executive Director
Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas
415 S. First Street, Suite 110B
Lufkin, TX 75901
(936) 631-8610
mdurand@detwork.org

Rebecca Espino-Balencia

Director of Ready to Work
Workforce Solutions Alamo
100 N. Santa Rosa Street, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78207
(210) 272-3260
respinobalencia@wsalamo.org

Melanie Flowers

Vice President of Industry Partnerships
Pathful
750 N. St. Paul Street,
Suite 250, PMB 63880
Dallas, TX 75201-3206
(512) 200-6520
mflowers@pathful.com

Ashley Glenn

Project Manager
Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast
3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120
Houston, TX 77027
(832) 681-2597
ashley.glenn@wrksolutions.net

Leigh Ann Godinez, CRC, LPC

Program Specialist for Transition and
Statewide Coordinator for Project SEARCH
Texas Workforce Solutions
Vocational Rehabilitation Services
2719 W. University Drive
Edinburg, TX 78539
(512) 720-8347
leighann.godinez@twc.texas.gov

Hannah Gourgey

Opportunity Youth Forum, Senior Fellow
Aspen Institute
2300 North Street NW, Suite 700
Washington, DC 81611
(970) 540-7940
hannah.gourgey@aspeninstitute.org

Anson Green

Senior Manager, Digital
and Automation Upskilling
IT Learning, Development, and Engagement
Talent and Culture
Tyson Foods
(210) 307-7604
anson.green@tyson.com

Desiree Holmes

Apprenticeship Director
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 440T
Austin, TX 78778
(737) 711-0714
desi.holmes@twc.texas.gov

Douglas Laxson

Program Specialist, RESEA
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 416T
Austin, TX 78778
(785) 209-8759
douglas.laxson@twc.texas.gov

Speakers

Dudley Light

Regional Director, Region 4,
Office of Apprenticeship
US Department of Labor
525 S. Griffin Street, Room 406
Dallas, TX 75202
(972) 850-4682
light.dudley@dol.gov

Adrian Lopez

CEO
Workforce Solutions Alamo
100 N. Santa Rosa Street, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78207
(210) 272-3250
alopez@wsalamo.org

Tanya Majied

Senior Director of Workforce Development
Goodwill Houston
1140 West Loop North Freeway
Houston, TX 77573
(713) 542-0240
tmajied@goodwillhouston.org

Jauneen Maldonado

Director of Adult Education and Literacy
Workforce Solutions of Tarrant County
1320 S. University Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 804-4225
jauneen.maldonado@workforcesolutions.net

Patricia Martinez

Director of Workforce Board
Service Strategies
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 458T
Austin, TX 78778
(737) 471-1320
patricia.martinez@twc.texas.gov

Gina Mattaliano

Senior Manager
CVS Health, Workforce Initiatives
175 Broad Street, Suite 296
Glens Falls, NY 12801
(267) 643-1198
gina.mattaliano@cvshealth.com

Leila Melendez

CEO
Workforce Solutions Borderplex
304 Texas Avenue, Suite 1400
El Paso, Texas 79901
(915) 887 2600
leila.melendez@borderplexjobs.com

Annie Montana

Senior Management Analyst
and Mentor Manager
Workforce Solutions Alamo
9725 Datapoint Drive, Suite 200
San Antonio, TX 78229
(210) 508-3403
amontana@wsalamo.org

Joel Mullins

Director, Workforce Program Policy
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 404AT
Austin, TX 78778
(737) 400-5850
joel.mullins@twc.texas.gov

Emily Naiser

Assistant Project Lead
Texas A&M University Public Policy
Research Institute
4476 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843
(979) 845-8800
enaiser@ppri.tamu.edu

Speakers

Georges Naufal

Associate Research Scientist
Texas A&M University Public Policy
Research Institute
3578 TAMU
College Station, TX 77843
(979) 845-8800
gnaufal@tamu.edu

Mike Nolen

Training Specialist
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 274
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 475-2429
mike.nolen@twc.texas.gov

Sandy Pastrano

Education and Training Teacher
Highlands High School
San Antonio Independent School District
3118 Elgin Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78210
(210) 438-6800
spastrano1@saisd.net

Adam “Smiley” Poswolsky

Speaker and Author
SpeakInc
10680 Treena Street, Suite 230
San Diego, CA 92131
(520) 797-1655
lcoleman@speakin.com

Vanessa Preston

Executive Vice President
Grant Associates
39 Broadway, 31st Floor
New York, NY 10006
(914) 391-4965
vpreston@grantassociatesinc.com

Nicole Quintero

Quality Assurance Manager
Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast
70 FM 1960 Road West, Suite A
Houston, TX 77090
(346) 574-9272
nicole.quintero@wrksolutions.com

Mike Reeser

Chancellor and CEO
Chancellor’s Office
Texas State Technical College
3801 Campus Drive
Waco, TX 76705
(254) 867-4891
mike.reeser@tstc.edu

Suzette Robinson

RESEA Director
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 416T
Austin, TX 78778
(737) 279-3229
suzette.robinson@twc.texas.gov

Ann Savino

Career Pathway Lead
Adult Education and Literacy
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 416T
Austin, TX 78778
(737) 471-1127
ann.savino@twc.texas.gov

Ed Serna

Executive Director
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 656
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 305-9636
edward.serna@twc.texas.gov

Speakers

Debra K. Simpson

Assistant General Counsel
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 266
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 745-5281
debra.simpson@twc.texas.gov

Tabitha Smith-Moore

Programs Oversight Unit Director
Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County
1320 S. University Drive, Suite 600
Fort Worth, TX 76107
(817) 413-4400
tabitha.smith-moore@workforcesolutions.net

Antonio Tarantino

CEO
Chrysalis Ministries
509 San Pedro Avenue
San Antonio, TX 78212
(210) 299-4540
ntarantino@chrysm.in.org

Heba Toulan, MS

Adult Education and Literacy
Grant Manager
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 416T
Austin, TX 78778
(832) 930-3356
heba.toulan@twc.texas.gov

Randy Townsend

Deputy Executive Director
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 654
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 463-2698
randy.townsend@twc.texas.gov

Les Trobman

General Counsel
Texas Workforce Commission
101 E. 15th Street, Room 608
Austin, TX 78778
(512) 936-3767
les.trobman@twc.texas.gov

Kimberly Villarreal

Child Care Quality Manager
Workforce Solutions Alamo
100 N. Santa Rosa Street, Suite 120
San Antonio, TX 78207
(210) 510-4685
kvillarreal@wsalamo.org

Craig Whelden

Major General, US Army (Retired)
Whelden Associates
6 Harborview Court
Bluffton, SC 29910
(808) 675-6530
wheldencraig@gmail.com

