



GRACE Conference

Growth through Reentry to Advance Careers & Employment

Thursday, August 8th, 2024
8:00 am – 3:30 pm
Austin Southpark Hotel
4140 Governors Row, Austin, TX 78744

AGENDA

- 7:30 AM** **Registration**
- 8:00 AM** **Welcome** – Alberto Treviño III, Commissioner Representing Labor, TWC
- 8:15 AM** **Update from Texas Department of Criminal Justice** – Jason Clark, Chief of Staff
- 8:25 AM** **What is GRACE?** – Jonathan Butler, Education Outreach Specialist, TWC
- 8:45 AM** **Featured Speaker** – Barbara Ornelas, Executive Director, Reentry Advocates Restoring Excellence (RARE)
- 9:30 AM** **Networking Break**
- 9:45 AM** **Break Out Session A – Website for Work led by TDCJ**
- Connecting a skilled workforce to in demand careers through innovative technology*
- Break Out Session B – The RARE Experience Simulator led by Misty Campbell & Barbara Ornelas**
- Interactive session from the job seeker’s perspective. A day in the life of an individual navigating re-entry challenges as they come out of the justice system.*
- 10:45 AM** **Networking Break**
- 11:00 AM** **Second Chance Success Stories**
- Cynthia Simons, Reentry Resources Manager, Travis County Innovative Justice & Program Analysis
- Anthony Hickman, Owner, Upper Echelon Moving & Hickman PM Consulting
- Bryndan Griego, Chief Executive Officer, Master Mounts Installations Corp.

- 11:30 AM** **Lunch**
- 11:45 AM** **Lunch Panel Discussion: Support**
- Mikayla Fasl, Fidelity Bonding Coordinator, TWC
- Melinda Paninski, Specialist for Workforce Alliances, Vocational Rehabilitation, TWC
- Russell Hunter, Manager of the Work Opportunity Tax Credit Program, TWC
- Mahalia Baldini, Director of Adult Education and Literacy, TWC
- Moderator:** Shunta Williams, Deputy Division Director of Board Support and Agency Administered Programs, TWC
- 12:45 PM** **Networking Break**
- 12:55 PM** **Break Out Session A – Website for Work led by TDCJ**
- Connecting a skilled workforce to in demand careers through innovative technology*
- Break Out Session B – The RARE Experience Simulator led by Misty Campbell & Barbra Ornelas**
- Interactive session from the job seeker’s perspective. A day in the life of an individual navigating re-entry challenges as they come out of the justice system*
- 1:55 PM** **Networking Break**
- 2:05 PM** **Featured Speaker** – Don Tracy, Interim Dean of Continuing Education, Austin Community College
- 2:50 PM** **Closing Remarks** – Mary York, Director of Workforce Development, TWC
- 3:30 PM** **Exhibitor Booths Close**