

# **TEXAS WORKFORCE COMMISSION**

## **8th Annual Apprenticeship Texas Conference Agenda**

**October 3-4, 2024**

**Stemmons Ballroom**  
**Hilton Anatole**  
**2201 North Stemmons Fwy**  
**Dallas, TX 75207**  
**(214) 748-1200**

Thursday, October 3, 2024

8:00 A.M. – 10:00 A.M.           REGISTRATION

8:30 A.M. – 9:15 A.M.           WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

**ED SERNA**, Executive Director, Texas Workforce Commission

**ALBERTO TREVIÑO III**, Commissioner Representing Labor, Texas Workforce Commission

**NICHOLAS LALPUIS**, Regional Administrator, US Department of Labor

**DESI HOLMES**, State Apprenticeship Director, Texas Workforce Commission

9:15 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.           PANEL DISCUSSION

### **APPRENTICESHIPS FOR THE COMMUNITY**

Both Brazosport and San Jacinto College have worked with their Petro Chem and Educational industries to meet the needs of both employers utilizing apprenticeships. A panel representing both industries and the community colleges will discuss how the same Petro Chem company can work with two colleges on the same apprenticeship and learn how one community college learned from the other in setting up a K-12 Teacher apprenticeship for different ISDs.

**SARAH HARRELL**, Apprenticeship Navigator, Brazosport College

**SARAH “SALLIE KAY” JANES, PHD**, Associate Chancellor, San Jacinto College

**ANNE BARTLETT**, Workforce Development Vice President, Brazosport College

**ALBERT TALLEY**, Department Chair, San Jacinto College

**CANDICE RUDOLPH**, Early Career Development Leader, Seadrift Operations, Dow Chemical

10:30 A.M. – 10:45 A.M.           BREAK

10:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.           PANEL DISCUSSION

### **BUILDING PATHWAYS TO CAREERS**

What happens when different stakeholders share similar strategies and goals? Join this session and find out how having an alignment between high school PTECH programs with registered apprenticeships benefits employers like Lockheed Martin. Infused with strong academic support from Angelina College and an innovative partnership with IPC International and unwavering commitment from Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas, synergy and change comes to rural Texas in a huge way.

**KAREN STUBBLEFIELD**, Operations Manager, Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas

**CORY BLAYLOCK**, Workforce Partnerships Director, IPC International

**MELINDA BRASUELL**, CTE/PTECH Coordinator, Diboll Independent School District

**DAVID TURBEVILLE**, Electronics and Engineering Technology Instructor, Angelina College  
**CHE'KE YATES**, Site Director, Lufkin Operations, Lockheed Martin

10:45 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.                      BREAKOUT SESSION, CARPENTER ROOM

**APPRENTICESHIP 101**

Are you interested in registering an apprenticeship program but thought the process was too difficult? Or perhaps your company has an apprenticeship program, but you don't know how to implement it? Come and join this session to learn from state and federal experts on how to start a program, launch and maintain it, and discover what "good" looks like.

**FACILITATORS: LEE PRICE**, Texas State Director, Office of Apprenticeship, US Department of Labor  
**ANN PHAM**, State Apprenticeship Team Lead, Texas Workforce Commission  
**YOLANDA WILLIS**, Early Education Apprenticeship Director, Campfire First Texas

12:00 P.M. – 1:15 P.M.                      LUNCH (PROVIDED)

1:15 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.                      PANEL DISCUSSION

**CHIPPING AWAY WITH SEMICONDUCTORS**

Explore how employer-led apprenticeships can effectively attract, develop, and retain entry-level talent. This session will provide insights into the development of a semiconductor apprenticeship program, maintaining industry partnerships, and career advancement opportunities essential for fostering a skilled semiconductor workforce.

**Amber Warne**, Business Engagement Senior Director, Workforce Solutions Capital Area  
**Clara Neri-Mejia**, Global Manufacturing Training Institute Manager, Applied Materials

1:15 P.M. – 2:30 P.M.                      BREAKOUT SESSION, CARPENTER ROOM

**UNLOCKING RESOURCES: HOW WORKFORCE BOARDS CAN SUPPORT APPRENTICESHIPS**

This breakout session highlights insightful information on how Workforce Development Investment Boards can support registered apprenticeships by maximizing Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) funding. This involves supporting training costs and promoting apprenticeship opportunities by leveraging the Eligible Training Provider List (ETPL), serving as conveners between current ETPL training providers and employer partners, building pre-apprenticeships around work-based learning and offsetting new hire wages with on-the-job training funds.

**FACILITATOR: CROSBY BRITO**, Employer Engagement Manager, Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

2:30 P.M. – 2:45 P.M.                      BREAK

2:45 P.M. – 4:00 P.M.                      PANEL DISCUSSION

**LEADING THE WAY: BOLSTERING A RURAL WORKFORCE**

This session focuses on how partnerships between public education, workforce, economic development, and industry can drive innovation, inspire growth, and be adaptable so everyone can reach their goals. Explore how a rural workforce system harnessed the capacity of multiple public and private partners to tackle issues that impact the long-term strength and vitality of the region's economy and community.

**BRANDI TROTTER**, Apprenticeship Navigator, Workforce Solutions North Central Texas  
**CRAIG DRIGGERS**, Manufacturing Director, L3Harris Technologies  
**JOHN DICKSON**, Business Development and Retention Director, Greenville Board of Development

**MICHAEL ERNY, ED.D**, Workforce Education Vice President, Paris Junior College  
**REBEKAH J. RUSSLER, ED.D**, Chancellor of Greenville Early College High School, Greenville Independent School District

2:45 P.M.– 4:00 P.M. BREAKOUT SESSION, BATIK ROOM (MEZZANINE LEVEL)

**UNDERSTANDING THE TEXAS INDUSTRY RECOGNIZED APPRENTICESHIP (TIRA) PROGRAM**

Funded by the Texas Legislature, the TIRA program aims to encourage the private sector to develop specialized programs that meet the requirements of the Texas Labor Code. The program's goal is to help address overall workforce shortages and critical skills gaps in Texas' economy. Sit in and learn more about how this program may help employers train and upskill apprentices.

**FACILITATORS: DESI HOLMES**, State Apprenticeship Director, Texas Workforce Commission  
**TARA COLE**, State Apprenticeship Team Lead, Texas Workforce Commission  
**MICHAEL MERONEY**, Advisor, Texas Association of Manufacturers

4:00 P.M. – 4:30 P.M. CLOSING REMARKS: DAY 1

4:30 P.M. – 6:30 P.M. NETWORKING IN EXHIBIT HALL

Friday, October 4, 2024

8:30 A.M. – 8:45 A.M. DAY 2 WELCOME

**BRYAN DANIEL**, Chairman and Commissioner Representing the Public, Texas Workforce Commission

8:45 A.M. – 10:00 A.M. PANEL DISCUSSION

**TAKING A PULSE: EMERGING HEALTHCARE APPRENTICESHIPS**

Rural hospitals play a crucial role in providing healthcare services to communities in less densely populated areas. They often face distinct challenges due to their location, limited resources, and unique patient demographics. This session highlights innovative strategies Texas rural and community hospitals are using to address talent shortages through apprenticeship programs.

**YESSENIA LONGORIA, MSN, RN, CMSRN**, Chief Nursing Officer, Moore County Hospital District

**KRISTY WORD, MSN-ED, RN**, Clinical Educator, Palestine Regional Medical Center

**JOHN HENDERSON**, CEO and President, Texas Organization of Rural and Community Hospitals (TORCH)

10:00 A.M. – 10:15 A.M. BREAK

10:15 A.M. – 11:30 A.M. GOVERNMENT UPDATE

**FEDERAL AND STATE APPRENTICESHIP**

To live in a functioning and often complicated society, government engagement plays a large role to ensure that everyone's needs are understood. This session covers a myriad of federal and state topics ranging from funding opportunities, expansion strategies, and new proposed legislation that will impact apprenticeship programs for generations.

**DUDLEY LIGHT**, Region IV Director, US Department of Labor

**DESI HOLMES**, State Apprenticeship Director, Texas Workforce Commission

11:30 A.M. – 11:45 A.M. CLOSING REMARKS: DAY 2