

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Victoria College Partners with a Six-Member Business Consortium for a TWC Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN — The Golden Crescent area workforce will benefit from more than \$1 million in job-training funds in a grant administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

A six-member business consortium, which includes Union Carbide Corp. (UCC)/Dow Chemical, Alcoa, Formosa Plastics Corp. U.S.A., Gulf States Inc., INEOS Nitriles, and Seadrift Coke LP has partnered with The Victoria College for the grant. It will be used to custom-train workers for 14 new and 1,276 upgraded jobs. Upon completion of training, workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$21.07.

“This grant will go a long way toward achieving our goal of a well-trained Golden Crescent workforce,” said state Rep. Geanie Morrison. “The participating companies will get the skilled workers they need, while those workers will receive excellent wages. Thousands of Golden Crescent families will reap benefits from this training, and I appreciate the Texas Workforce Commission and The Victoria College for their roles in this vital project.”

“Our Skills Development grants serve everyone well,” said Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Workers get the specialized training they need to fill new and existing jobs, and the community benefits from a more highly skilled workforce.”

In Fiscal Year 2005, 23 Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 12,247 jobs (3,351 and 8,896 respectively). The jobs paid an average hourly wage of \$17.01. The grants totaled \$8.6 million and assisted 95 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$40.4 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2006-07 biennium.

Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC Web site at www.texasworkforce.org.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

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