

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: March 23, 2006

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TWC Co-Sponsors 2006 Statewide Science and Engineering Fair

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced today that the agency will co-sponsor the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair featuring talented students who will comprise tomorrow's workforce. The fair will be hosted by the University of Texas-San Antonio (UTSA) from Thursday, March 30, through Saturday, April 1, at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio.

“Science and engineering skills are integral to the success of Texas' future workforce and the foundation of many high-demand careers,” said TWC Chair Diane Rath. “The talent and passion that these amazing students develop today for science and math will evolve into career skills that employers will seek tomorrow.”

The science fair, officially sanctioned by Science Service, the presenter each year of the International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), is a statewide competition for Texas high-school and middle-school students who qualified at regional competitions. More than 1,000 students are expected to compete at the fair for scholarships and other special awards. The winners from the senior division will have the opportunity to advance to the ISEF competition later this spring in Indianapolis. Those ranking in the top 10 percent of the junior division will be invited to apply to attend the Discovery Channel Young Scientist Challenge, also presented by Science Service, in the fall in Washington, D.C.

Chair Rath will be a featured speaker at the junior and senior awards ceremonies Saturday, April 1.

Dr. Stuart Birnbaum, associate professor in the UTSA College of Sciences, serves as the executive director of the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair. The Texas Science Careers Consortium (TSCC), which is supported by TWC, is a coalition of science and technology deans from colleges and universities across the state dedicated to addressing the myriad science and technology issues Texas employers and job seekers will face in the near future. Along with ExxonMobil, co-sponsors include the TSCC, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and several major science and engineering industry employers.

Projects will be judged throughout the day Friday, March 31, with winning projects announced during award ceremonies the following day. More information about the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair is available online at <http://emtsef.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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