

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Seven-Member Business Consortium Partners with Hill College for a \$252,166 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – The North Central Texas area workforce will benefit from a \$252,166 job-training grant that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers. The business consortium, which includes Gunderson Southwest, Thomas Conveyor, Technical Chemical Company, Johns Manville, SACHEM Inc., Smithfield BioEnergy and Synsil partnered with Hill College for the grant.

The grant will be used to custom-train workers in the health care industry for 106 new and 632 upgraded jobs. Upon completion of training, workers will fill positions as registered nurses, managers and health care support specialists, among others, earning an average hourly wage of \$15.81.

“This grant will create jobs and provide valuable new skills to local workers, both of which are key to our future economic growth,” said state Sen. Kip Averitt. “Hill College will do a great job with this incredible opportunity to help local employers remain competitive in today’s rapidly changing business environment.”

“Thanks to this grant, these employers will be able to get the customized job training they need to expand their operations in Johnson County,” said Rep. Rob Orr. “I appreciate the efforts of the Texas Workforce Commission and Hill College to make this happen.”

“This Skills Development Fund grant provides a great opportunity for workers and gives employers a skilled labor force,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Thanks to the Governor and the Legislature, TWC makes these grants available each year, assisting thousands of Texans to improve their quality of life.”

In Fiscal Year 2005, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 12,247 jobs. 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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