

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: August 24, 2007

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International Paper Co. Partners with Texarkana College for a \$163,845 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – The North East Texas area workforce will benefit from a \$163,845 job-training grant from the Skills Development Fund that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers. International Paper Co. has partnered with Texarkana College to provide the training.

The grant will be used to upgrade skills of 196 workers, including general mechanics, project engineers, financial analysts, senior technicians, assistant operators and others. Upon completion of training, workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$32.18.

“I am extremely pleased to see International Paper Company and Texarkana College coming together to strengthen our workforce and provide good jobs for hardworking Northeast Texans,” said Representative Stephen Frost. “This type of program is a great example of public and private leadership working side by side for the good of the community.”

“I commend International Paper and Texarkana College for their efforts to upgrade the skills of almost 200 workers,” said state Sen. Kevin Eltife. “This Skills Development Fund grant not only helps improve the workers’ knowledge, but strengthens our workforce as a whole.”



In this photo released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman (third from left) presents a \$163, 845 Skills Development Fund grant check to (from left), International Paper-Texarkana Mill’s Chief Steward of the IBEW Local 301 Stan Roberson, International Paper-Texarkana Mill’s President of USW Local 1149 John Meador, International Paper-Texarkana Mill’s Human Resource Manager Jeff Carmack, International Paper-Texarkana Mill’s Mill Manager Kevin Driscoll, Texarkana College’s Director of Business Office and Workforce Development Scott Norton, Texarkana College President Frank Coleman, International Paper-Texarkana Mill’s President of USW Local 1148 Barney Krebs and International Paper-Texarkana Mill’s Manager of Operational Services Don Forst. (Photo by Scott Norton/Texarkana College)

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Skills-Development

“The Skills Development Fund is one of the best programs in the state to provide employers with the skilled workforce they need,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. “Thanks to the Governor and the Legislature, TWC makes these grants available each year, helping hundreds of Texas employers succeed.”

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2006, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 14,090 jobs, which paid an average hourly wage of \$19.22. These grants assisted 125 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$50 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2008-09 biennium.

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

Texarkana College contact: Scott Norton at (903) 832-5565 or snorton@texarkanacollege.edu

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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.