

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Manufacturing Consortium Partners with El Centro College for a \$590,882 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – The Dallas County area workforce will benefit from a \$590,882 job-training grant from the Skills Development Fund that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers. El Centro College has partnered with a 14-member manufacturing consortium to provide the training.

The grant will be used to create or upgrade the skills of 592 workers, including technicians, machinists, assemblers, engineers and more. Upon completion of training, workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$23.73.

The manufacturing consortium includes Corporate Express, Dexas International Ltd., Manda Machine Co., Mary Kay Inc., Morrison Products Inc., Nestlé Waters, OMEGA Environmental Technologies, On-Target Supplies and Logistics Ltd., TCS Corporate Services, Trintech Inc., TurboChef Technologies Inc., Turbomeca, Web Converting Inc. and Western Extrusions Corp.

“This effort by the Texas Workforce Commission and El Centro College’s Bill J. Priest Institute is yet another example of how to help move Texas forward,” said state Sen. Royce West. “These types of programs that work with the private sector to match industry needs with an available workforce are models of good government. A strong workforce is part of the formula that stabilizes communities and gainful employment helps to stabilize families.”

“Manufacturing jobs are always in high demand, which makes this grant so incredible,” state Rep. Terri Hodge said. “Not only will 592 jobs be created or upgraded, but workers will obtain valuable skills and education that will help create a stronger economy as a whole.”

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



In this photo released by the Texas Workforce Commission, TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton (front row from left) presents a Skills Development Fund grant check for \$590,882 to (back row from left) Manda Machine General Manager Andy Ellard, Webb Converting Process & Applications Engineer James Ouzts, Morrison Products Plant Manager Rob McPhail, Turbomeca Director of Human Resources Keith Shaw, Nestlé Water Supply Chain Manager Eric Gustafson, Corporate Express Human Resources Manager Billie Tyzbir, (front row from left) Commissioner Congleton, Interim President of El Centro College Dr. Micheal Jackson, Omega Technologies Assistant to the President Diana Hernandez and Turbomeca Industries Training Coordinator Heather Carter. *(El Centro College Photo)*

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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](http://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](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*