

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Ann Hatchitt

**PHONE:** (512) 463-8556

## **Becon Construction and Fluor Corp. Partner with Blinn College for a \$2 Million Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN — More than 1,000 electricians, millwrights, ironworkers and pipe fitters will be employed by Fluor Corp. and Becon Construction after receiving job training through a \$2 million Skills Development Fund grant that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers. Fluor Corp. and Becon Construction, a division of Bechtel Corp., are constructing the Oak Grove Power Plant in Robertson County and reconstructing a plant near Rockdale. Blinn College will coordinate training responsibilities with Texas State Technical College, Temple College, McLennan College and Navarro College.

Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$17.10. TXU Corp.'s Luminant division will operate the coal-fired plants and will hire many of the workers trained under this grant after construction is completed. Others will continue working for the construction companies.

“This grant provides numerous vital jobs to the community such as electricians, ironworkers and pipe fitters,”

state Rep. Fred Brown said. “It is extremely enlightening to see Skills Development Fund grants make such an amazing impact on the Texas economy.”

“The partnership of private enterprise and public education has been a powerful force in economic development in Texas,” said TWC Chair Diane Rath. “This Skills Development Fund grant continues those efforts, and we are all indebted to the Governor and the Legislature for their continued support of customized training that benefits both employers and workers.”

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 20,831 jobs, which paid an average hourly wage of \$19.04. These grants assisted 281 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 TWC's Skills Development Fund Web page at

<http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/sdfintro.html>. Blinn College contact: Dr. Milton Radke at (979) 209-7379 or [mradke@blinn.edu](mailto:mradke@blinn.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](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*



In this photo released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), TWC Chair and Commissioner Representing the Public Diane Rath (second from right) presents a Skills Development Fund grant check for \$1,984,440 to (from left to right) Brazos Valley Council of Governments Executive Director Tom Wilkinson, Blinn College President Dr. Donald Voelter, Fluor Corp. Manager of Craft Training Brenda Ketterman, TXU Corp. Manager of Community Relations Don Montgomery, Becon Construction Co. Vice President Bob Deatherage, Blinn College Grants Director Dr. Milton Radke and Blinn College Technical and Workforce Education Dean Guadalupe Reyes, Jr. (Blinn College Photo)