

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** November 19, 2007

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Ann Hatchitt

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

## TWC Awards East Texas Employers \$1 Million in Skills Training Grants



In this photo released by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Gregg County Judge Bill Stoudt, Chief Elected Official for East Texas (far right) presents three Skills Development Fund grant checks to (from left) Orgill Inc. Vice President of Distribution Vic Price; Convergys Corp. Longview Site Director Bob Crowder; and Key Energy Health Safety and Environmental Director Mike Bellow. (Kilgore College Photo)

AUSTIN — The East Texas area workforce will benefit from three Skills training grants totaling more than \$1 million. Key Energy Services Inc., Convergys Corp. and Orgill Inc. will partner with Kilgore College for the training grant that the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) administers.

The \$223,564 grant to Key Energy Services Inc. will be used to create or upgrade 175 jobs. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$16.08. Jobs include rig supervisors, rig operators and truck drivers, among others.

The \$406,725 grant to Convergys Corp. will be used to create 510 jobs as customer service representatives. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$9.00.

The \$414,299 grant to Orgill Inc. will be used to create or upgrade 148 jobs. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly

wage of \$14.13. Jobs include material handlers, truck drivers and inventory technical specialists, among others.

“I am pleased to see the tremendous job creation that will be achieved by these Skills grants,” state Sen. Kevin Eltife said. “Not only does this help the economy thrive, but individuals are helped as they receive training to help them succeed.”

“These three Skills Development Fund grants are a fine example of how public and private partnerships may flourish,” state Rep. Tommy Merritt said. “Congratulations to all parties involved in the grants.”

“The partnership of private enterprise and public education has been a powerful force in economic development in Texas,” said TWC Chair and Commissioner 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>.

Contact: Chris Craddock at (903) 983-8181 or [ccraddock@kilgore.edu](mailto:ccraddock@kilgore.edu)

###ash

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).