

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CenterPoint Energy Inc. Partners with San Jacinto College for \$407,046 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – CenterPoint Energy Inc. has partnered with San Jacinto College to provide training for its workers using a \$407,046 job training grant from the Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) Skills Development Fund.

The grant will be used to custom train 1,308 incumbent workers on the use of “smart grids,” which include smart meter technology and electric distribution automation technologies. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$26.42.



TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar (center) presents a \$407,046 Skills Development Fund grant to representatives from CenterPoint Energy and San Jacinto College. Pictured are: from left Mr. Larry Fuller, Director of Safety, Environmental and Technical Training, CenterPoint Energy; Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor, San Jacinto College; Lilburn Goodson, Technical Training Supervisor, CenterPoint Energy, Andres Alcantar; Dr. H. Neil Matkin, President, San Jacinto College Central; Marie Flickinger, Chair, San Jacinto College Board of Trustees; Ms. Barbara Lewis, Senator Mike Jackson’s office; Scott Prochazka, Senior Vice President, CenterPoint Energy.

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“The training programs made possible by this grant will build competent skills,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “The number of Texans working in these jobs earning good wages will be a great economic boost for this region of Texas.”

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2009, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 19,516 jobs, which paid an average hourly wage of \$24.44. These grants assisted 170 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature appropriated \$90 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2010-11 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC Web site at <http://skills.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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*