

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Applied Biosystems Inc. Partners with Austin Community College for \$391,094 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – Applied Biosystems Inc. has partnered with Austin Community College (ACC) to provide job training using a \$391,094 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

The grant will be used to custom train 339 new and incumbent workers. The funds will provide quality assurance and productivity training to upgrade the skills of scientific staff including scientists, production chemists and chemical process technicians. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$32.62.



TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton (far right) presents a \$391,094 Skills Development Fund grant check to Applied Biosystems Inc. and ACC for job skills training. In attendance are (from left) Kathy Walton, ACC executive director of customized training an business assessment; District 50 State Rep. Mark Strama; Debra Thompson, Applied Biosystems; Mary Daigle, Workforce Solutions Capital Area board chair; Dr. Stephen Kinslow, ACC president and CEO; Donna Crenshaw, Workforce Solutions Capital Area; Allen Kaplan, ACC Board of Trustees Vice Chair.

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“The Skills Development Fund ensures that Texas workers can gain the skills they need for high-demand jobs and good wages,” said state Rep. Mark Strama. “It is rewarding to see these funds benefit our employers, workers and communities.”

“Workers get the specialized training they need and the communities benefit from a more highly skilled workforce,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton.

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).*