

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** June 16, 2010

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## **Chemical Manufacturing Consortium Partners with Brazosport College for \$1 Million Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – A consortium of seven chemical manufacturing businesses has partnered with Brazosport College to provide job training using a \$1 million Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

The grant will be used to custom train 952 new and incumbent workers. The training will assist the businesses in this consortium to build worker competencies, decrease safety incidents, and prepare workers for their Nuclear Regulatory Commission Operator’s License assessment. Those trained through this Skills grant include chemical plant and systems operators, chemical engineers, and general maintenance and repair workers. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$33.62.



TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar (second from left) presents a \$1 million Skills Development Fund grant check to Brazosport College and a business consortium for job skills training. From left: District 25 state Rep. Dennis Bonnen; (third from left) Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast Chairman Frank Thompson; (third from right) Brazosport College President Dr. Millicent Valek; and representatives from partnering companies BASF Corp., ConocoPhillips Co., Dow Chemical Co., Huntsman Ethyleneamines LLC, Shintech Inc., SI Group Inc. and STP Nuclear Operating Co. (Brazosport College Photo)

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The seven-member business consortium includes: BASF Corp., ConocoPhillips Co., Dow Chemical Co., Huntsman Ethyleneamines LLC, Shintech, SI Group Inc., and STP Nuclear Operating Co.

“The Skills Development Fund helps our state maintain a workforce that meets the needs of today’s employers,” said state Rep. Dennis Bonnen. “These grants support our efforts to create a skilled workforce and keep jobs in Texas.”

“The training programs taking place using 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).*