

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Business Consortium Partners with Vernon College for \$830,060 Grant to Train More than One Thousand Workers

AUSTIN – A four-member business consortium has partnered with Vernon College to provide job training using an \$830,060 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

The partnering employers in the grant are Albert Moving and Storage, Magic Aire (United Electric), Alcoa Howmet and Sealed Air Corp.

The grant will be used to custom train 1,116 new and incumbent workers in lean process skills, safety, computers, management, leadership and mechanical training. The project will help the participating businesses maintain a competitive workforce, improve customer service and ensure the retention of qualified workers. Those trained through the grant will include production operators, maintenance workers and metal operators. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$18.82.



TWC Chairman Tom Pauken (center) presents a Skills Development Fund check for \$830,060 to (from left) Sealed Air-Cryovac Complex Manager Andrei Stoddard, Magic Aire General Manager Ron Duncan, Vernon College President Dr. Dusty R. Johnston, Vernon College Associate Dean of Career and Technical Education Shana Munson, TWC Chairman Pauken, state Sen. Craig Estes, Alcoa Howmet Human Resources Manager Jim Ingalls, Albert Moving and Storage President Bobby Albert. (Vernon College photo)

“Our Skills Development Fund grants are a tremendous benefit to employers, workers and local communities,” said state Sen. Craig Estes. “Employers gain highly qualified workers, newly trained workers expand their skills in high-demand jobs and earn higher wages, which has a positive economic impact on their communities.”

“TWC makes these grants available each year, helping hundreds of Texas employers and thousands of workers succeed,” said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. “We take pride in the fact that we can continue to provide businesses a ready and skilled workforce.”

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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.