

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Eighteen Companies Partner with San Jacinto College for \$1 Million in Job-Training Grants

AUSTIN – Two business consortiums consisting of 18 businesses have partnered with San Jacinto College to provide job training for 707 workers using two Skills Development Fund grants totaling more than \$1 million from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

“The grants from the Texas Workforce Commission will enhance our local community with advanced career opportunities,” said state Sen. Mike Jackson. “And because these industries serve as the engine of the Texas economy, our entire state will benefit from this well-deserved educational investment.”

“If Texas is going to have the workforce it needs in the future, we must provide not only quality education, but specific skills our students will need in the workplace,” said state Sen. Dan Patrick. “I applaud those businesses that partner with the state’s efforts to provide job training.”

One grant for \$394,577 will create or upgrade 195 positions for a consortium of maritime companies including BG Americas and Global LNG, G & H Towing Co., Harbor Offshore Marine Inc., Helix Energy Solutions Group, Higman Marine Services Inc., J.A.M. Distributing Co., and Signet Maritime Corp. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$30.20.

“I am proud to see BG LNG and Higman Barge Lines, businesses in my district, working to train Houston’s maritime workforce,” said state Rep. Beverley Woolley. “When we work together, like BG LNG and Higman are with their maritime partners, to build a stronger workforce; we build a stronger Houston.”

A second grant for \$607,185 will create or upgrade 512 positions for a consortium of aerospace businesses including Barrios Technology Ltd., Booz Allen Hamilton Inc., Cimarron Software Services Inc., Futron Corp., GeoControl Systems Inc., Hamilton Sunstrand, Lockheed Martin Corp., MRI Technologies, Oceaneering International Inc., United Space Alliance LLC, and Wyle Integrated Science and Engineering Group. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$38.64.

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“The training programs made possible using these grants will build marketable 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 the Gulf Coast area.”

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.