

Texas Workforce Press Release

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MEDIA CONTACT: Ann Hatchitt
PHONE: (512) 463-8556

Construction Companies Partner with El Paso Community College for \$343,928 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – Nine El Paso-area construction companies have partnered with El Paso Community College to provide job training using a \$343,928 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The construction consortium includes: Avilas Plumbing, Coefficient Systems Testing Inc., Dawco Builders LLC, El Paso J.A.G. Inc., E M Commercial and Industrial Electrical Services Inc., Longhorn Electrical Services Inc., Oscar Lara Electric LLC, Solar Smart Living LLC and Sun City Electric Co. Inc.



El Paso Community College President Dr. Richard Rhodes (left) receives a Skills Development Fund grant check from Texas Workforce Commission Ronny Congleton (second from left). Also in the photo from left: El Paso Central Labor Union Business Manager Javier Casas, Workforce Solutions Upper Rio Grande Board Chair Patricia Villalobos, El Paso Electricians Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee Director Michael J. Waldo, El Paso Community College Vice President for Workforce Development and Continuing Education Yolanda Chavez-Ahner.

Photo Courtesy Workforce Solutions

The grant will be used to custom train 65 new and incumbent workers in photovoltaic design used in solar energy technology installation and application to work on renewable energy projects. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$19.29.

“Our Skills Development Fund grants serve everyone well,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Workers get the specialized training they need and the communities benefit from a more highly 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>.

El Paso Community College Contact: Yolanda Ahner, vice president for workforce/economic development & continuing education, (915) 831-7724 or yahner@epcc.edu

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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.