

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Petrochemical Consortium Partners with Alvin Community College for \$1.3 Million Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – A consortium of petrochemical businesses has partnered with Alvin Community College to provide job training using a \$1.3 million Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The companies included in the training are Ascend Performance Materials LLC, Team Industrial Services, Solvay Chemicals and Equistar Chemicals.

The grant will be used to custom train 640 new and incumbent workers on new manufacturing equipment, new advanced training topics, and critical skills to keep petrochemical plants operating at optimal levels of safety and productivity. Workers trained include processors, instrumentation and electrical technicians, and chemical plant and systems operators. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$33.05.



Texas Workforce Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton (fourth from left) presents a Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Alvin Community College (ACC) and its employer grant partners. Also pictured from left to right are: TEAM Industrial Senior Vice President Pat Kearns; ACC President Dr. Rodney Allbright; Ascend Performance Materials Business Unit Leader Alec Dobson; Ascend Performance Materials Site Training Lead Curt Thompson; ACC CEWD Grant Manager Dr. Jim Kelly; Solvay Chemicals Deputy Human Resources Site Manager Tanya Fiedler; TWC attorney Bob Stewart; and Lyondell Basell HST Specialist Doug Loy.
Photo courtesy Alvin Community College

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“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.”

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.