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August 24th 2012

Senator Lucio speaks to Business Consortium, TSTC Harlingen, celebrating \$389k Job-Training Grant

Texas State Technical College Harlingen (TSTC Harlingen) has partnered with a consortium of manufacturing and warehousing businesses to provide job training using a \$389,173 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The businesses partnering in the grant include ITD Precision, Mexican Snacks Inc., Penn Aluminum International LLC and Valley International Cold Storage Inc.



“Skills Development Fund grants serve the state and local communities well by improving the skills of the labor force, enabling workers to advance and earn higher wages, and helping employers to remain competitive in the global marketplace,” said state Sen. Eddie Lucio Jr., who spoke at the check presentation ceremony on Wednesday.

The grant will be used to custom train 282 new and incumbent workers and is expected to increase safety, eliminate waste, reduce downtime, improve communication and promote lean manufacturing practices.

“The Skills grants deliver customized training solutions that help Texas employers and workers succeed in the marketplace,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar, who presented the check. “This investment builds not only employee skills, but the capabilities of our community colleges to the benefit of employers and the community. We are pleased to make this investment.”



From the program’s inception in 1996 through 2011, Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 266,000 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 3,790 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature appropriated \$48.5 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2012-13 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at skills.texasworkforce.org.

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