

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Caterpillar Logistics Partners with McLennan Community College for a \$195,556 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – Caterpillar Logistics has partnered with McLennan Community College in Waco to provide training for 293 new and upgraded positions using a \$195,556 job-training grant from the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Skills Development Fund.



TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton (far left) presents a Skills Development Fund grant check for \$195,556 for job training to (from left) McLennan Community College Corporate Training Executive Director Danny Uptmore, Heart of Texas Workforce Center Executive Director Anthony Billings, Caterpillar Human Resources Director Natalie Yambo, Caterpillar Logistics Center Manager Darin Suarez and Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce Director of Business Retention Kris Collins. The grant will be used to provide job training for 293 new and upgraded positions at Caterpillar Logistics. *(Photo courtesy of the Greater Waco Chamber of Commerce.)*

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Skills Development Fund

The grant will be used to create or upgrade positions, including logistics first-line supervisors, and transportation and material occupations. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$13.82.

“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) 2008, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 19,689 jobs, which paid an average hourly wage of \$24.29. These grants assisted 148 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$50 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2008-09 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC Web site at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/sdfintro.html>.

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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 unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.