

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Blue Bell Creameries Partners with Blinn College for \$175,725 Job-Training Grant



TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar (center) presents a Skills Development Fund grant check for \$175,725 for job training to (from left) Blinn College President/CEO Daniel Holt, Blue Bell Creameries CFO/Treasurer Bill Rankin, Blue Bell Creameries Production Manager Greg Bridges, Blue Bell Creameries Public Relations Director Bill Weiss, Brenham Mayor Milton Tate, Brenham City Councilman Weldon C. Williams, Jr., Brazos Valley Workforce Solutions Program Manager Trish Buck and Blinn College Director of Technical Education Center Milton Radke. The grant will be used to provide job training for 867 new and upgraded positions at Blue Bell Creameries.
Photo courtesy of Blinn College.

AUSTIN – Blue Bell Creameries has partnered with Blinn College in Brenham to provide job training using a \$175,725 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

The grant will be used to custom train workers for 867 new or upgraded jobs. Upon completion of training, workers will fill positions such as food batch makers, packagers and sales representatives. They will receive an average hourly wage of \$15.28.

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Skills Development Fund

“The training programs taking place using this grant will build competent 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 Brazos Valley area.”

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>.

Blinn College contact: Dr. Milton Radke at (979) 209-7379 or mradke@blinn.

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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.