

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Two Businesses Partner with Amarillo College for Two Job-Training Grants Totaling \$426,556

AUSTIN — Two businesses have partnered with Amarillo College to provide training for 453 new or upgraded jobs using two Skills Development Fund grants totaling \$426,556 from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).



Texas Workforce Commission Chairman Tom Pauken, right, presents a \$159,671 Skills Development Fund grant check to Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. Site Leader Roger Williams, left, and Amarillo College Acting President Dr. Paul Matney. The funds will be used to create and upgrade 184 positions at Bell Helicopter. Pauken also presented a Skills grant totaling \$266,885 to Amarillo College and Northwest Texas Healthcare System to train 269 workers in new and upgraded positions.

Photo courtesy of Amarillo College.

The 269 upgraded jobs in the \$266,885 grant with Northwest Texas Healthcare System include certified emergency room nurses, medical surgical nurses and mental health nurses. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$26.81.

The 184 new and upgraded jobs in the \$159,671 grant with Bell Helicopter Textron Inc. are team assemblers. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$18.75.

“TWC makes these grants available each year, helping hundreds of Texas employers and workers succeed,” said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. “We take pride in the fact that we can continue to provide businesses a ready and skilled workforce.”

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