

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: September 18, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT: Ann Hatchitt

PHONE: (512) 463-8556

National Employ Older Workers Week September 20-26

Age and experience benefit Texas employers

AUSTIN – Texas joins the nation in recognizing National Employ Older Workers Week from September 20 through 26. Designated by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), National Employ Older Workers Week serves as a reminder of the valuable skills that workers aged 55 and older provide employers.

Older workers now live longer, are healthier and lead more productive lives, and greatly contribute to the state's experienced workforce. The most recent Texas State Data Center statistics suggest that the number of Texans aged 55 and older is projected to triple between 2000 and 2040 to more than 10.4 million citizens.

“Employers understand the value that older workers bring to a business because of their strong work ethic and valuable experience,” said Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Tom Pauken. “Older workers benefit from the opportunity to learn newer skills that are needed to meet the demands of a constantly changing workforce.”

TWC uses U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) funds to administer the state's portion of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) which provides paid, on-the-job training and employment services for older workers who have limited financial resources.

DOL has allocated more than \$36 million for SCSEP in Texas for Program Year 2009-2010. That amount includes more than \$5 million in stimulus funds from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), which will help serve a larger number of SCSEP participants than the previous program year in which more than 6,400 Texans were served.

While SCSEP participants are being trained, they provide valuable community services for public entities and nonprofit organizations such as libraries, workforce centers, museums, hospitals, recreation centers, social service agencies, school districts and public housing agencies as they prepare to transition into full- or part-time employment. Federal grants are issued to states and to a broad network of organizations that operate this “earn while you learn” program nationwide. TWC's Web site, www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/scsep/scsepcontact.html, has a search tool for SCSEP contacts by county.

###jg

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.