

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Igloo Products Corp. and Valmont Industries Inc. Partner with Blinn College for \$253,366 in Job-Training Grants**



TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton (second from right) presents a \$208,423 Skills Development Fund grant check to Valmont Industries Inc. for job skills training. Also in attendance are (from left) Valmont Human Resources Manager Gregg Morrison, Blinn College Director of Technical Education Center Milton Radke, Valmont Production Manager Errol Lewis, District 18 State Sen. Glenn Hegar, Valmont Maintenance Supervisor Richard Thompson, District 13 State Rep. Lois W. Kolkhorst, Valmont Quality Manager Ron Huber, Commissioner Congleton and Blinn College President & CEO Daniel J. Holt.  
*Photo courtesy of Blinn College.*

AUSTIN – Igloo Products Corp. (Igloo) and Valmont Industries Inc. (Valmont) have partnered with Blinn College in Brenham to provide training for 308 new and upgraded positions using two job-training grants totaling \$253,366 from the Texas Workforce Commission’s (TWC) Skills Development Fund.

In partnership with Blinn College, Igloo received \$44,943 to train 28 maintenance technicians.

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Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$14.10. Valmont received \$208,423 to train 280 business operations specialists, industry machinery mechanics and structural metal fabricators. Upon completion of training, workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$15.50.

“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 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 [www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/sdfintro.html](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](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*