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# Commissioners' Corner



**Commissioner Representing the Public and Chairman, Bryan Daniel**

“TWC continues to dedicate resources to closing the middle skills gap in Texas through earn-while-you learn apprenticeship programs,” said TWC Chairman Bryan Daniel. “In February, TWC committed \$19 million in funding to support the creation of apprenticeship programs across various industries important to this state’s economy, such as manufacturing, health care and transportation.”



**Commissioner Representing Labor, Julian Alvarez III**

“Education is critical to a successful, skilled work force. Apprenticeships are a pathway for many to learn critically needed skills while also getting needed payment for their services and time. I joined the Healthcare Advisory Committee of Laredo to discuss integrating apprenticeships into training programs and creating educational and career pathways in healthcare.” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez.



### Commissioner Representing Employers, Aaron Demerson

“For participating Texas employers, apprenticeships are a win-win for both the business and employee,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Aaron Demerson. “The Lone Star State continues to boom with more high-paying jobs, and at TWC we can help our Texas employers provide paid on-the-job training for an array of occupations.”

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## TWC Dedicates \$19 Million to Address Labor Shortages

February marked a major milestone in Texas toward addressing critical labor shortages through registered apprenticeship programs. Across the state, employers are facing staffing challenges, but registered apprenticeship programs offer solutions in both the short and long-term.

Registered Apprenticeship can support a diverse group of businesses, education partners, labor organizations, workforce partners and industry associations to meet the ongoing need for building a skilled workforce. This earn-while-you-learn model not only offers Texans the opportunity for career advancement, but creates a skilled pipeline of talent from which employers in all industries can hire across the state.

This month, TWC approved \$19 million in funding to support the creation of apprenticeship programs in two high-demand areas: healthcare and middle skills careers – occupations that require some education beyond high school, but less than a four-year degree.

Through our [Healthcare Registered Apprenticeship Initiative](#), we aim to partner with industry, workforce and education organizations to increase the number of career pathway opportunities for registered nurses and healthcare professionals in the state. This initiative will offer employers an innovative approach to hiring and training future nurses and healthcare staff by expanding opportunities for students who wish to pursue career pathways to RN certification and other healthcare fields.

As the Texas economy continues to grow, employment demand has dramatically increased for individuals in middle skill occupations. Through this new [middle skills apprenticeship initiative](#), TWC will support the creation or expansion of registered apprenticeship programs in key industry areas identified as in especially high-demand, including automotive service technicians and mechanics; production machinists, assemblers, and fabricators; and logistics management and supply chain analysts.

From production machinists and plumbers to mechanics and more, skilled trade workers are in high demand across the state, and these funds will create programs that put our state’s workforce on a faster path to a high-wage, high-demand career.

These tools and programs help us address a critical labor issue through on-the-job training, while developing a pipeline of skilled talent.

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## New team members!



We have a new Contract Manager and Apprenticeship Specialist! Please help us welcome, **Sheila Ripple** and **Robert Hetzel**. Prior to joining TWC's Office of Apprenticeship, Sheila worked with Burton ISD and Robert worked with Texas Veterans Commission Employment Services. We are excited to have Sheila and Robert join our team.

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## Register and Join Us



The 2022 TWC ApprenticeshipTexas Conference will be held in McAllen, Texas, September 22-23. The registration link will open soon. Please go to the [TWC Apprenticeship](#) webpage for the latest updates.



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## Successful navigation of apprenticeships



- [Austin hospitals expanding apprenticeship programs with funding from Workforce Solutions Capital Area](#)

- [Bombardier Celebrates Graduation of First Cohort of Red Oak, Texas-based Apprentices in Comprehensive Training Program](#)

*This section is dedicated to our Apprenticeship Awardees who have demonstrated exceptional work in the creation or expansion of registered apprenticeship programs.*

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# Apprenticeship in the News



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- [The real 'Apprentice' is in Red Oak, Texas and she's making wings for jets](#)
  - [How apprenticeships can bridge the employment gap for workers without college degrees](#)
  - [Apprenticeship: Rethinking College](#)

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## Resources



Discover apprenticeship! Want to explore and learn more? Below you may find some fun facts from Apprenticeship.Gov resource hub.

### [Apprenticeship.Gov Fact Sheets](#)

- [Youth Apprenticeship Fact Sheet](#) (download PDF)
  - [Employer Fact Sheet](#) (download PDF)
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## New Awardees



TWC congratulates the following entities for receiving an ApprenticeshipTexas Expansion grant.

Workforce Solutions Capital Area

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas

South Texas College