

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Blue Bell and Stanpac Partner with Blinn College for \$500,160 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – Blue Bell Creameries and Stanpac USA have partnered with Blinn College to provide job training for 771 new and incumbent workers using a \$500,160 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley area.

This grant will be used to provide custom training to 771 new and incumbent workers for industry related topics with focused instruction on ammonia refrigeration, enhanced food safety, microbial growth prevention, robot operation training, logic control systems, forklift and welding. Trainees will include diesel, engineering, electrical and welding technicians; crane, blanker, forklift, freezer and refrigeration operators; food batchmakers; procurement clerks; transport drivers; maintenance, packer and warehouse associates.



Today, TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar (center) presented a \$500,160 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Blinn College, Blue Bell Creameries and Stanpac USA.

Pictured from left: Human Resource Manager Stanpac USA Kathryn Leistner, TWC Executive Director Larry Temple, Blue Bell Creameries Vice President of Operations Greg Bridges, Chairman Alcantar and Blinn College President Dr. Mary Hensley.

*Photo courtesy of Blinn College*

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## Training Grant

Upon successful completion of training, trainees will have an opportunity for numerous certifications for electrical, food defense and forklift safety. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$16.55.

“Skills grants deliver customized training solutions that help Texas employers and workers succeed in the marketplace,” said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. “This investment builds not only employee skills, but the capabilities of our community colleges to the benefit of employers and the community. We are pleased to make this investment.”

The Skills Development Fund grant program is celebrating 20 years of success as the state’s premier training program in 2015-16. The fund was initiated by the Legislature in September of 1995 and first began awarding contracts in 1996. During that time the Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 329,333 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 4,141 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature allocated \$48.5 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2016-17 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at [www.texasworkforce.org/skills](http://www.texasworkforce.org/skills).

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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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org). To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our [email updates](#).*