

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEDIA CONTACT:** Lisa Givens

**PHONE:** 512-463-8556

## **South Texas College Partners with Healthcare Consortium for \$2.6 Million Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – South Texas College (STC) has partnered with a Healthcare Consortium to provide job training using a \$2,602,165 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley area.

“Through local partnerships, this skills development grant will build on the investment of future healthcare professionals in the community through customized training resources and by providing opportunities for highly skilled workers in the Rio Grande Valley,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez.



TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez (center) presented a \$2,602,165 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from South Texas College (STC) and a Healthcare Consortium on August 24, 2016. Pictured from left to right: STC Program Development & Manager Continuing Professional Workforce Education Olivia De La Rosa, Doctors Hospital at Renaissance (DHR) Nursing Education Project Coordinator Sandra Munguia, DHR Nursing Education Project Coordinator Trey Ybarra, DHR Director of Government Relations and Grants Dr. Eliza Alvarado, Congressman Ruben Hinojosa, state Sen. Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa, Commissioner Alvarez, STC Trustee Paul Rodriguez, STC President Dr. Shirley Reed, STC Trustee Gary Gurwitz, Dr. Armour Forse, Guadalupe Rodriguez, STC Trustee Rose Benavidez, and STC Dean of Continuing Professional and Workforce Education Juan Carlos Aguirre.

*Photo courtesy of South Texas College*

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“High wage-high skill jobs are critical to improving regional prosperity and a better quality of life for Valley families,” said STC President Dr. Shirley A. Reed. “This \$2.6 million Texas Workforce Commission grant will fund workforce training to upgrade the skills, wages, and career advancement opportunities for 2,112 healthcare professionals and will create 849 new jobs in the healthcare industry.”

The customized training will provide 2,961 new and incumbent workers in the healthcare profession with medical training such as nursing, pathophysiology, pharmacology, ophthalmic, emergency, cardiovascular, pediatric care, as well as training for medical personnel and coding specialists over the next three years. Trainees will include cardiac, catheterization, laboratory, radiology, operating room, hyperbaric chamber, sonography, emergency room, hemodialysis, interventional, MRI and engineering technicians in addition to nursing assistants, vocational nurses and physical rehab aides. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$20.49.

“South Texas College was awarded funding that facilitates the education and training of our healthcare professionals and support staff who help our hospital achieve excellence – every patient, every encounter, every time,” said DHR Chief Administrative Officer and Chairman of the Board Dr. Carlos Cardenas. “This funding clearly represents foresight on behalf of TWC, and is an example of a partnership that will drive the transformation and innovation coming in healthcare education and research.”

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).

STC contact: Director of Public Relations Daniel Ramirez, 956-872-2580 or [dramirez@southtexascollege.edu](mailto:dramirez@southtexascollege.edu).

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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](#).*