

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** October 14, 2016

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## **Kaemark Partners with Blinn College for \$221,699 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – Kaemark Inc. has partnered with Blinn College to provide job training for 95 new and incumbent workers using a \$221,699 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit the Workforce Solutions Rural Capital area.

This grant will be used to provide customized training with a focus on industry-related topics such as carpentry, cabinet design, electrical troubleshooting, hydraulics and pneumatics and manufacturing safety. Trainees will include information technology staff, commercial designers, assemblers, upholsterers, sewists, machine operators, inspectors and painters. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$15.83.



TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar (center) presented a \$221,699 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Blinn College and Kaemark Inc. Pictured from left: Roque Pena, Kaemark Plant Manager, Dr. Mary Hensley, Blinn College District President, Chairman Alcantar, Jeff Owen, Kaemark Chief Executive Officer, Ben Peterson, Kaemark Chief Operating Officer.

*Photo courtesy of Blinn College*

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## Training Grant

“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](#).*