

2025 Workforce Awards

Welcome to the 28th Annual Texas Workforce Conference Employer Awards Luncheon. Each year, we are pleased to honor employers whose innovation, hard work, and investments in the Texas workforce system contribute to the state's thriving economy.

The following outstanding employers show how successful Texas Workforce Solutions can be when we work together. The employers' commitments to engage with communities, job seekers, and workforce partners yield achievements through a shared vision of workforce and economic development. Each nominee embodies Texas Workforce Commission's mission to promote and support a workforce system that creates value and offers employers, individuals, and communities the opportunity to achieve and sustain economic prosperity.

Veteran-Friendly Employer of the Year

The Veteran-Friendly Employer of the Year Award recognizes an employer whose efforts to recruit and hire veterans have had a significant benefit to the veterans in its local workforce development area as well as across the state.

Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages employs a significant proportion of veterans—over 900 individuals during 2024, accounting for 10.34 percent of its workforce—with more than 200 veterans hired at self-sustaining wages just last year. This quantitative commitment shows that Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages' veteran hiring program is a strategic priority that has measurable impact on both the veterans and the organization.

Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages has a dedicated veteran recruiting team, led by a former service member, that specializes in connecting with veterans and aligning their military skills to company roles. Furthermore, Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages collaborates with veteran-focused organizations, such as Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas, TWC, Texas Veterans Commission, GI Forum, and Transition Assistance Program/Soldier for Life, to identify, prepare, and transition veterans into career-track roles with advancement potential.

Additionally, Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages offers several internal resources and activities designed to support and benefit employed veterans. Examples include veteran employee spotlights and recognition, mentorship programs, veteran employee resource groups, career development and training, flexible scheduling for reservists, and veteran-focused job assistance.

Veteran-Friendly Employer of the Year Nominees

L3Harris Technologies

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas

USFS Companies

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

Provalus

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas

Integrated Technology & Security LLC

Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas

McLane High Plains

Workforce Solutions South Plains

Accenture Federal Services

Workforce Solutions Alamo

Concentrix

Workforce Solutions for South Texas

Bechtel Energy

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend

Tex-Best & El Tigre

Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley

Securitas

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Undivided Labor LLC

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas

Martin-Baker America

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

CampV Tyler

Workforce Solutions East Texas

HireAbility Employer of the Year

The HireAbility Employer of the Year Award recognizes an employer for its commitment to hiring individuals with disabilities and for the employer's efforts to create an inclusive workforce.

Kearney Park Compounding Pharmacy

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

As a dedicated employer partner of the Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) program, Kearney Park Compounding Pharmacy has provided meaningful work experiences to students with disabilities for two consecutive years. In 2024, the pharmacy welcomed six SEAL participants, and in 2025, it continued its commitment with one student placement.

Each student served as a store clerk, taking on responsibilities tailored to their unique strengths and interests. Tasks included customer assistance, inventory management, use of point-of-sale systems, and store organization. These roles helped students build essential skills in communication, teamwork, and professional conduct, laying a strong foundation for long-term employment success. Currently, the pharmacy employs six individuals, with approximately 25 percent of the workforce identifying as individuals with disabilities. This level of representation highlights the company's inclusive hiring philosophy and commitment to creating opportunities for all Texans, regardless of ability.

HireAbility Employer of the Year Nominees

United Supermarkets

Workforce Solutions Panhandle

Hilton Downtown, Waco

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas

Hyatt Place College Station

Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley

Nacogdoches Memorial Hospital

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas

SSC Services for Education

Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas

MOD Pizza, San Antonio Market

Workforce Solutions Alamo

ACE Hardware of Zapata

Workforce Solutions for South Texas

Walgreens

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend

Golden Ice Cream

Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley

Chick-fil-A—Morrison Road, Ruben Torres Boulevard, and Sunrise Boulevard

Workforce Solutions Cameron

Walgreens

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Market Street and United Supermarkets

Workforce Solutions North Texas

Sodexo

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

Elijah's Retreat

Workforce Solutions East Texas

Small Employer of the Year

The Small Employer of the Year Award recognizes private-sector employers (with fewer than 500 employees) that are actively involved with their local Workforce Solutions Offices and, as a result, have benefitted other employers, workers, and their communities.

Local Workforce Development Boards nominate employers with partnerships that exemplify the economic success that can be achieved through private- and public-sector collaboration.

Three small employers are recognized for excellence, operational results, and the benefits the employers' local communities have gained. From these three exemplary finalists, one small employer will be selected as the 2025 Texas Workforce Solutions Small Employer of the Year.

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas

During the 2024–2025 school year, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital supported more than 30 students with hands-on learning and dedicated more than \$48,000 in staff time and resources to work-based learning efforts. This flexible, student-centered approach allows for career exploration across multiple departments, helping students see themselves in health care beyond traditional roles. Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital also works closely with postsecondary institutions to provide clinical placements that are in high demand, thanks to the hospital's strong mentorship culture.

In partnership with Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas and area school districts, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital participates in the Work-Based Learning Program. During the most recent school year, this included hosting three tours, 29 job shadows, and six interns across four departments. While healthcare roles were a natural fit, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital quickly recognized the opportunity to expose students to nonclinical roles. Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital welcomed interns interested in marketing, culinary arts, and social work and gave them meaningful projects to develop core skills. For example, a marketing intern was entrusted with managing the hospital's monthly newsletter and highlighted the accomplishments of fellow interns.

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital plays a vital role in supporting the Sweetwater community. As one of very few rural hospitals in Texas where over 70 percent of the surrounding rural population consistently receives care locally, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital provides critical access to healthcare services and stability that is uncommon in regions of similar demographics. This strong connection with community members reflects both trust in the quality of care and the hospital's pronounced community presence. Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital is not only a healthcare provider but is also a key economic and community partner. The existence of a facility like Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital directly supports the viability of major local employers, including significant manufacturing operations that depend on immediate medical access for workforce safety.

Small Employer of the Year Finalists

United Supermarkets

Workforce Solutions Permian Basin

Mason Construction

Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas

Small Employer of the Year Nominees

Soluna Computing

Workforce Solutions Panhandle

El Paso Makes

Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Nacho's Restaurant Cantina & Grill

Workforce Solutions Concho Valley

Diversified Product Development

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas

Schunk Xycarb Technology, Inc.

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

Oldham Goodwin

Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley

Seadrift Coke L.P.

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent

Levelland Nursing & Rehabilitation Center

Workforce Solutions South Plains

Over The Rainbow Christian Learning Center

Workforce Solutions Alamo

Tradesman International

Workforce Solutions for South Texas

AmBee

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend

The Pediatric Care Center

Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley

Lopez Supermarket

Workforce Solutions Cameron

Solansky Welding and Pump, Inc.

Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande

Gulf Copper

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Lewis Learning Center

Workforce Solutions North Texas

The Goddard School, Allen

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas

Nerdworks Services LLC

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

ProCollect

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

Huhtamaki, Inc.

Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas

Titan Tube

Workforce Solutions East Texas

Large Employer of the Year

The Large Employer of the Year Award recognizes private-sector employers (with 500 or more employees) that are actively involved with their local Workforce Solutions Offices, and, as a result, have benefited other employers, workers, and their communities.

Local Workforce Development Boards nominate employers with partnerships that exemplify the economic success that can be achieved through private- and public-sector collaboration.

Three large employers are recognized for excellence, operational results, and the benefits that the employers' local communities have gained. From these three exemplary finalists, one large employer will be selected as the 2025 Texas Workforce Solutions Large Employer of the Year.

DHR Health

Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley

DHR Health has had a significant economic and workforce development impact on the Lower Rio Grande Valley, the state of Texas, and beyond. With an annual economic footprint exceeding \$1.5 billion, DHR Health serves as one of the largest healthcare systems in South Texas and remains a major economic engine for the region. In the past 12 months alone, DHR Health created 1,168 new positions, significantly contributing to job growth in healthcare and allied fields. These positions have not only expanded access to care but also generated new business opportunities for local vendors and service providers, strengthening the economic ecosystem of the Rio Grande Valley. In addition to its thousands of direct employees, DHR Health supports approximately 6,000 direct jobs and 5,000

indirect jobs, spanning industries such as construction, maintenance, medical supply chains, retail, and food service.

The company has also made strategic investments in workforce development to enhance worker skills and improve job retention. Through partnerships with TWC and programs such as the Skills Development Fund, DHR Health successfully upskilled 3,318 staff members in areas including advanced fetal heart monitoring, comprehensive stroke certification, advanced medical billing and coding, electrocardiogram training, and fundamentals of critical care support. This initiative resulted in an 86 percent completion rate of training deliverables and has positively influenced employee satisfaction, retention, and promotion opportunities, reducing reliance on external recruitment for critical roles.

Additionally, DHR Health has partnered with the Economic Development Corporations of the cities of Edinburg, McAllen, and Brownsville to invest in and create jobs in economically distressed areas through the Texas Enterprise Zone Program. Through this program, DHR Health has invested over \$600 million to develop new medical clinics, build new hospital facilities, expand emergency and outpatient services, and create more than 3,000 new jobs.

Large Employer of the Year Finalists

Georgia-Pacific

Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas

Knauf

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas

Large Employer of the Year Nominees

Pantex

Workforce Solutions Panhandle

Schneider Electric

Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Diamondback Energy

Workforce Solutions Permian Basin

Shannon Hospital

Workforce Solutions Concho Valley

St. David's Healthcare/HCA Healthcare

Workforce Solutions Capital Area

Entergy Texas, Inc.

Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas

Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent

United Supermarkets

Workforce Solutions South Plains

Visionworks

Workforce Solutions Alamo

Formosa Plastics Corporation, Texas

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent

Concentrix

Workforce Solutions for South Texas

Kiewit Offshore Services

Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend

Dollar Tree

Workforce Solutions Cameron

Kickapoo Lucky Eagle Casino Hotel

Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande

HCA Houston Healthcare Southeast

Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

Cryovac

Workforce Solutions North Texas

Loews Arlington Hotel and Convention Center

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

Niagara

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

Graphic Packaging International

Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas

University of Texas Health, East Texas

Workforce Solutions East Texas

Local Employer of Excellence

The Local Employer of Excellence Award is presented to 28 employers throughout Texas that support the Texas workforce system's goal of ensuring that both employers and workers have the resources and skills Texas needs to remain competitive in the global economy.

Plains Dairy**Workforce Solutions Panhandle**

Plains Dairy exhibits outstanding collaboration with Workforce Solutions Panhandle in building a skilled and competitive workforce. As a leading private-sector employer in the 26-county region, Plains Dairy has demonstrated a clear

commitment to workforce development through proactive engagement with workforce programs and training initiatives. In 2023, Plains Dairy partnered with Workforce Solutions Panhandle to secure a \$154,985 Skills Development Fund grant, which enabled customized training for 127 employees in areas such as manufacturing, merchandising, forklift operations, transportation, and food safety. Delivered in coordination with local colleges, this training addressed specific industry needs, improving both individual skill levels and overall operational capacity. The project resulted in new job opportunities and contributed to the company's long-term workforce stability. Beyond this initiative, Plains Dairy consistently works with Workforce Solutions Panhandle to recruit and retain employees, leveraging tools like WorkInTexas.com and participating in regional hiring events and job fairs. The company's internal upskilling and advancement strategies reinforce its role as a driver of economic development in the Texas Panhandle.

Staybridge Suites Lubbock Workforce Solutions South Plains

Staybridge Suites Lubbock consistently demonstrates a strong commitment to supporting both the local community and the broader goals of the Texas workforce system, ensuring employers and workers have access to the resources and skills necessary to remain competitive. Staybridge Suites Lubbock actively collaborates with Workforce Solutions South Plains, regularly participating in hiring events, employer panels, and outreach efforts hosted at the Lubbock Career Center. Leadership goes beyond recruitment; the company plays an active role in fostering career pathways for job seekers across all backgrounds. Notably, Staybridge Suites Lubbock has made a meaningful impact through its support of Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act youth participants. The employer has opened its doors to young adults seeking career readiness experience, offering hands-on opportunities, mentoring, and work-based learning that contribute to long-term career development in the hospitality industry. The inclusive hiring practices reflect a genuine investment in nurturing emerging talent and building a stronger local workforce.

Allegiance Electric Workforce Solutions North Texas

Workforce Solutions North Texas has forged a meaningful partnership with Allegiance Electric to bolster the development of the North Texas workforce. This collaboration includes on-site hosting and training of youth with disabilities through the Summer Earn and Learn program and engaging in on-the-job training initiatives for students and adults to acquire essential workplace skills. Allegiance Electric has taken part in a Teacher Externship Program, welcoming an electrical career teacher from one of the local high schools to work alongside its employees for one week during the summer. This experience enabled the teacher to integrate real-world insights back into the classroom. Additionally, Workforce Solutions North Texas has supported Allegiance Electric with labor-market comparisons and assisted in

permanent job placements during its recruitment processes. This partnership exemplifies a shared commitment to workforce development and education.

Leggett & Platt, Inc.

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas

Leggett & Platt's Ennis Spring manufacturing plant produces bedsprings, employing 245 skilled workers and administrative professionals. The company is actively engaged in creating job opportunities for local workers, including those marginalized individuals who have challenges finding employment. It recently started an on-the-job training (OJT) program, which reimburses the company for a portion of a new employee's wages while they are being trained. Leggett & Platt's OJT program is focused on hiring veterans, those with disabilities, and low-income individuals. One of the challenges Leggett & Platt has faced is retention and regular attendance, so it is pursuing innovative avenues to find good workers, including the second chance program, which hires previously incarcerated individuals. It is also focused on upskilling its current workforce through ongoing continuing education. The company is partnering with TWC on a Skills Development Fund grant to conduct training for all workers at its plant, providing opportunities for skills enhancement and career progression for the current workforce. Leggett & Platt also works collaboratively with nearby Navarro College, attending business roundtables where companies can share their specific needs to help the college better tailor its manufacturing curricula to ensure it is creating relevant education and career pathways for local workers.

Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County

The Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center—a stunning addition to the Arlington landscape nestled between Globe Life Field and AT&T Stadium and offering unparalleled access to major sporting events and attractions—has become a cornerstone of the city's vibrant entertainment district. It has also become an important partner for the workforce development system in Tarrant County. Through service on the local Board, inclusive recruitment strategies, internship programs, on-site adult education and literacy programs, collaboration with local secondary and postsecondary institutions, strategic development of its workforce, and service to the community, it has shown the impact a large employer can have in a short amount of time. Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center is deeply committed to supporting the goals of the Texas workforce system through inclusive, innovative, and sustainable workforce development strategies. It has implemented targeted initiatives that address skills gaps, promote workforce participation from underrepresented groups, and invest in the long-term success of current and future employees. By working closely with Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County and leveraging programs like workplace adult education and literacy, Loews Arlington Hotel & Convention Center helps build a well-trained, equitably employed workforce that supports regional prosperity.

Omni Dallas

Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas

Omni Dallas stands out as an impactful partner in workforce development, educational partnership, and community engagement. Omni Dallas and Richardson High School have come together in an exciting collaboration to provide students with an immersive and innovative learning experience in the world of hospitality. The “Hospitality Hub” is a unique and dynamic classroom environment, meticulously transformed by Omni Hotel & Resorts into a fully functioning, simulated hotel lobby. Omni Dallas has played a vital role in mentoring students and providing them with hands-on experience across various departments, including rooms, food and beverage, banquets and catering, marketing, and more. Omni Dallas is a proud host of the City of Dallas Tourism and Hospitality Internship Program, now in its second year, and welcomed eight interns this summer to gain real-world industry exposure. Additionally, the hotel hosts high school and college student tours throughout the year, giving young learners direct insight into hotel operations and career pathways in hospitality through interactions with Omni Dallas’ leadership team. In 2025, Workforce Solutions Greater Dallas expanded its collaboration with Omni Dallas through the Teacher Externship Program. This initiative strengthens career and technical education by providing educators with immersive, real-world industry experience.

Edgewood Manor

Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas

Edgewood Manor is a strong workforce partner, committed to advancing the mission of Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas. As a respected healthcare provider in Texarkana, Edgewood Manor has demonstrated consistent engagement with Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas through collaborative initiatives that strengthen the local workforce and support individuals with barriers to employment. A key example of Edgewood Manor’s commitment is its active participation in regional job fairs, where the organization regularly connects with job seekers to fill critical positions in long-term care. Its presence helps foster local employment opportunities and addresses workforce shortages in a high-demand sector. Moreover, Edgewood Manor has shown remarkable support for youth workforce development by volunteering to host a student through the Summer Earn and Learn program. This initiative provides students with disabilities the chance to gain valuable work experience in a supportive environment. Edgewood Manor’s willingness to offer hands-on learning helps build confidence and job skills among participants, ensuring a more prepared future workforce. Through these actions, Edgewood Manor not only contributes to local economic vitality but also serves as a model for employer engagement. Its partnership with the Texas workforce system has had a direct and meaningful impact on individuals, families, and the broader community in Northeast Texas.

West Fraser

Workforce Solutions East Texas

Strategically situated in Henderson, Texas, West Fraser stands as a cornerstone of East Texas' economic vitality. As North America's largest lumber producer and the world's leading manufacturer of oriented strand board, the company has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to workforce development and community engagement. In 2022, West Fraser embarked on a transformative \$255 million modernization of its Henderson mill, which has since doubled production capacity. This investment not only enhances operational efficiency but also incorporates advanced technologies and solar energy solutions, underscoring the company's dedication to sustainable practices and improved working conditions. Central to West Fraser's ethos is its promote-from-within philosophy. The company fills 60 to 70 percent of salaried positions through internal promotions, fostering a culture of growth and opportunity. Employees benefit from a blend of on-the-job experience, formal training, and leadership development programs, ensuring continuous professional advancement. Beyond internal initiatives, West Fraser actively collaborates with Workforce Solutions East Texas to bridge the skills gap in the region. Its participation in local job fairs, including the Henderson Job Fair, exemplifies its commitment to connecting with and developing the local talent pool. Skilled workers are in high demand, and West Fraser gives them a place to learn and grow in East Texas.

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas

Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital is a cornerstone of local workforce development in West Central Texas. Through its innovative use of work-based learning, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital strengthens the talent pipeline while supporting regional economic growth. In partnership with Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas and local secondary schools, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital offers students meaningful, skill-building experiences aligned with workforce needs through industry tours, job shadowing, and internships in both clinical and nonclinical roles. During the 2024–2025 school year, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital supported over 30 students with hands-on learning and dedicated more than \$48,000 in staff time and resources to work-based learning efforts. This flexible, student-centered approach allows for career exploration across multiple departments, helping students see themselves in health care beyond traditional roles. Thanks to the hospital's strong mentorship culture, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital also works closely with postsecondary institutions to provide high-demand clinical placements. Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital engages regularly with the local workforce development system and provides continuous feedback to workforce partners, shaping regional strategies and strengthening initiatives such as healthcare career pathways, paid internships, and credit-for-work opportunities. Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital addresses workforce system challenges by expanding rural access to care and reducing employer reliance on costly contract labor. In 2024, Rolling Plains Memorial Hospital opened a new clinic in Blackwell, Texas, and significantly grew its behavioral health services at its Sweetwater facility. These efforts not only fill critical care gaps but also create local healthcare jobs, support

school and employer health needs, and encourage graduates to pursue employment in their own rural communities.

Paso del Norte Community Foundation Workforce Solutions Borderplex

As a trusted community partner, the Paso del Norte Community Foundation has played a pivotal role in advancing one of the region's most promising workforce development pilots: a summer internship initiative that brings together nonprofits, college students, and private-sector funders to build a stronger, better prepared future workforce. Led by Workforce Solutions Borderplex, the initiative offers students across the region an opportunity to gain real-world experience and professional exposure, often for the first time. While many young people take on traditional summer jobs, this program offers a different kind of engagement, where students apply their skills in dynamic nonprofit settings that require adaptability, creativity, and a broader understanding of community impact. The program channels students' existing digital fluency, especially in communication, social media, and technology, into professional environments where they help nonprofits strengthen outreach, improve operations, and raise community visibility. In turn, students not only apply technical strengths but also develop essential workplace habits such as communication, accountability, initiative, and a sense of civic purpose.

WesTex Urgent Care Workforce Solutions Permian Basin

WesTex Urgent Care is nominated for its outstanding dedication to workforce development and measurable contributions to the Texas workforce system's goal of equipping employers and workers with necessary resources and skills to maintain Texas' economic competitiveness. In partnership with Workforce Solutions Permian Basin and local colleges, WesTex Urgent Care developed medical assistant and medical receptionist internship programs, offering hands-on training in clinical and administrative settings. Active for two years, this initiative requires the dedicated investment of staff time, training resources, and educational coordination. The internship program has placed multiple graduates into healthcare positions, directly addressing regional workforce shortages while upgrading participant skills and improving new-hire retention. WesTex Urgent Care partners with Workforce Solutions Permian Basin for subsidized employment opportunities and participates in Hiring Red, White, & You events. Through collaboration with Odessa College's spring career fair, WesTex Urgent Care connects graduating students with employment opportunities, creating a valuable pipeline of future healthcare staff. WesTex Urgent Care also works with Workforce Solutions Permian Basin to provide Skills Development Fund training for current staff, investing in upskilling and retention.

Long Industries, Inc.**Workforce Solutions Concho Valley**

Long Industries, a leader in fabrication and construction services, has demonstrated a deep and sustained commitment to workforce development and community collaboration within the Texas workforce system. With over 30 years of experience, Long Industries has earned a reputation for delivering high-quality, turnkey solutions across a variety of industries and for building robust partnerships that strengthen both the workforce and the broader community. The company fosters a culture grounded in teamwork and continuous improvement. Every employee is treated as a valuable team member, and contributions are encouraged at all levels. Long Industries believes that talent is not limited to any single background or path. It actively seeks out hardworking individuals across the Concho Valley who bring passion and results to their roles. This empowering approach creates a dynamic workplace where employees thrive—and the company excels. Brandon O’Neill, Plant Manager at the Carlsbad, Texas, location, actively engages with the local workforce team by attending all hiring events, job fairs, and career days. Mr. O’Neill also frequently attends local high school recruiting events, inspiring and informing students about career pathways in the skilled trades. His outreach efforts have empowered young Texans to take the first steps in meaningful careers, setting them up for success. Through these initiatives, Long Industries has a measurable impact on the regional labor market, offering well-paying jobs, enhancing skills development, and supporting other employers by setting a high standard of partnership and collaboration. This approach serves as a model for how private-sector employers can actively engage with workforce development programs to drive real change.

Himes Service Company, Inc.**Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas**

With over 20 years of dedicated service in the recycling and scrap industry, Himes Service Company has consistently demonstrated not only operational excellence but also a deep commitment to supporting the local workforce and broader community. As a valued partner of Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas, Himes Service Company has played an active role in connecting local job seekers with meaningful employment. Its investment in future talent is highlighted by Himes Service Company’s participation in the YES! High School Student Welding Internship program, which provides students with real-world experience in a high-demand trade. Himes Service Company has hosted a student welding intern for the past four years and has pledged to host an intern every year. The company recently hired one of its interns for three months after graduation while that student waited for the first college semester to start. What truly sets Himes Service Company apart is their unwavering support for veterans. Recognized as a veteran-friendly employer, Himes Service Company actively recruits and employs individuals who have served our country, honoring the leadership, discipline, and technical skills veterans bring to the workforce. The company offers diverse career paths—from engineering and procurement to skilled trades—backed by competitive benefits, including paid leave, health insurance, and 401(k) retirement plans. Himes Service Company’s commitment to the community is also evident through its strong

partnership with the Robinson Chamber of Commerce, where the company continues to promote economic development, local networking, and civic engagement. The annual Fill the Truck campaign for Toys for Tots is another testament to Himes Service Company's community spirit, bringing holiday joy to children across Central Texas.

Rosendin

Workforce Solutions Capital Area

Rosendin has built a strong partnership with Workforce Solutions Capital Area, advancing community career development and skills training. Through events like science, technology, engineering, arts, and math (STEAM) fairs and Trades Day, Rosendin engages with students and young adults in exploring STEAM trades. At Trades Day, participants experience hands-on learning in electrical work and gain exposure to career pathways, reinforcing Rosendin's commitment to building a skilled workforce. Rosendin is also making a positive impact by bridging the gap between education and employment. Its partnership with Workforce Solutions Capital Area ensures students are well prepared for future careers while at the same time supporting the local economy, reflecting Rosendin's belief in the importance of community engagement and investing in the future workforce. Through Rosendin's charitable arm, The Rosendin Foundation (TRF), the company hosts TRF Camp Build, a free summer camp for students in grades six through eight. Campers explore construction through hands-on projects in various construction-related activities, many of which are donated to the community. Advanced campers return for deeper skill building in areas such as soldering, pipe bending, building information modeling, heavy-equipment operation, and safety practices. The camp introduces students to a wide range of construction careers while developing confidence and practical abilities.

Tekscend Photomasks U.S., Inc.

Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area

Tekscend Photomasks, a key player in the global semiconductor industry, has made significant strides in workforce development within Central Texas. Tekscend Photomasks emphasizes innovation in photolithography and semiconductor manufacturing and is deeply committed to cultivating local talent. Through strategic partnerships with technical colleges and Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area, Tekscend Photomasks provides customized on-the-job training and upskilling programs designed to equip employees with advanced technical skills. Its hiring approach—prioritizing veterans, individuals with disabilities, and recent graduates—further supports regional economic growth. Tekscend Photomasks Round Rock, the U.S. subsidiary of the global Tekscend Photomasks Ltd., plays a critical role in the semiconductor supply chain. It serves major fabrication houses, including Texas Instruments, Global Foundries, Samsung, and others. Recognizing the need to strengthen its talent pipeline and enhance workforce capabilities, Tekscend Photomasks collaborated with partners on a comprehensive workforce strategy. This initiative includes capturing and preserving institutional knowledge, creating role-specific learning paths linked to performance outcomes, and upgrading training

modalities such as eLearning, classroom instruction, and video learning. Tekscend Photomasks maintains a staffing capacity above 97 percent, underscoring their successful approach to workforce development and organizational resilience.

Bayer Construction Electrical Contractors, Inc. Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley

As a locally owned electrical contractor with more than 50 years of service, Bayer Construction Electrical Contractors has consistently demonstrated a strong investment in both its employees and the broader community. Bayer Construction Electrical Contractors actively supports the Texas workforce system's goal of building a skilled, competitive workforce. The company regularly partners with Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley programs, career and technical education providers, and apprenticeship initiatives to offer on-the-job training (OJT) and employment pathways for both entry-level workers and those seeking to upskill. Through these efforts, Bayer Construction Electrical Contractors not only fills critical roles within its own operations but also contributes to developing a pipeline of skilled tradespeople essential to regional infrastructure and industry growth. The company is particularly committed to hiring individuals with limited prior experience, offering them structured training and mentorship opportunities that lead to long-term, sustainable electrical careers. Bayer Construction Electrical Contractors has also participated in work experience and OJT programs, providing job seekers—including veterans and young adults—with the hands-on experience needed to thrive in a competitive labor market. This proactive approach to workforce engagement, working closely with local Workforce Solutions staff and supporting regional economic development goals, makes Bayer Construction Electrical Contractors a model employer. The efforts directly support the Texas workforce system's mission of ensuring that employers have access to a highly skilled workforce while giving job seekers real opportunities for growth and advancement.

Lufkin Gears Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas

Lufkin Gears, a division of Baker Hughes, provides high-performance gearing and gear coupling solutions and services. The company brings a history of industry-leading technology to demanding, high-speed mechanical-drive, turbo machinery, and marine-propulsion applications. The company continually sets the standard for design and manufacturing to meet or exceed the most stringent customer and industry specifications. Lufkin Gears is a member of the Deep East Texas Manufacturing Alliance and actively collaborates with Angelina College to pursue workforce skills development initiatives. The company participates in many career exploration events with Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas and other organizations, including Manufacturing Day, Gateway to the Future, the My Future, My Way event, the Youth Career Summit, and Angelina College's Find Your Future event. The company actively offers and hosts student tours and work-based learning days. Lufkin Gears also participated in the Deep East Texas Teacher

Externship for three years (2022, 2024, 2025) and is actively involved in Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas' job and career fairs and other workforce services.

Mason Construction

Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas

Mason Construction has been a foundational force in Southeast Texas for over 86 years. With deep roots in the community and a commitment to both innovation and tradition, Mason Construction is recognized for its excellence in construction services, safety, and workforce development. Mason Construction actively partners with Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas and posts all job openings in WorkInTexas.com, ensuring equitable access to employment for job seekers. As a sponsor and exhibitor at the Youth Career Expo, they reach more than 3,000 high school students each year, introducing them to rewarding careers in skilled trades like welding, pipefitting, hydro excavation, and structural steel work. The company invests heavily in in-house training and upskilling. Their Mason Construction Ranger Training Program—a voluntary evening initiative—brings in industry experts to provide both classroom and hands-on instruction. Topics include concrete, trench safety, piling, shoring, and more. The result: Employees who began as laborers are now running major projects, thanks to Mason Construction's commitment to internal advancement. The company also led the nation's first Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) construction project, creating an on-site hybrid training center for entry-level workers, supported by partnerships with Golden Triangle Empowerment Center, Associated Builders and Contractors Southeast Texas, and other industry partners. This initiative became a model for future IRA-funded projects. Mason Construction supports internships with Lamar University and Texas A&M University, providing opportunities for students in construction management and civil engineering to rotate through field and office assignments. This immersive experience helps build future leaders while enhancing Mason Construction's pipeline for qualified talent.

Clark Constructors

Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent

Clark Constructors, established in 1999, competitively provides high-quality, industry-leading construction management services on a large scale through its three divisions: civil, structural, and mechanical construction. Through these divisions, Clark Constructors provides a wide array of construction services, including expansion projects, structural steel fabrication, loading stations, and numerous other new or renovated custom capital improvement projects. Thanks to a strong family-based company infrastructure, and their partnership with Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent, Clark Constructors sustains annual growth and development in all three facets of the company. Office locations in Northeast and Southeast Texas allow them to effectively serve a wide range of locations throughout Texas. Clark Constructors goes above and beyond to set and promote industry safety standards. Its OSHA-certified safety team promotes safety standards at every level of company operation, and employees maintain industry-recognized standards through the proactive promotion of preventative measures. In

recognition of Clark Constructors' commitment to safety excellence, it has been awarded the Texas Mutual Excellence in Safety Award for many years. Through innovation and advanced technology, combined with its partnership with Workforce Solutions Golden Crescent and others across the state, it deploys the large-scale capacity to provide quality, value, and complete customer satisfaction while maintaining the highest level of safety and commitment to excellence.

Americrane Rentals Workforce Solutions Alamo

Americrane Rentals, headquartered in Schertz, Texas, stands out as a dynamic force in workforce development and community engagement. In 2024, Americrane Rentals deepened its commitment to empowering youth and advancing skilled trades through impactful outreach and strategic partnerships. As a proud employer partner of Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA), Americrane Rentals actively supports regional hiring initiatives, training programs, and job-placement efforts that strengthen the local labor force. The collaboration with WSA reflects a shared mission to connect talent with opportunity and build a resilient workforce across the Alamo region. Americrane Rentals' involvement in the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Antonio 4th Annual Trades Day introduced students to hands-on careers in construction and mechanical trades, while sponsorship of the Youth of the Year Gala celebrated leadership and ambition among local youth. Recognition at the ABC Excellence in Construction Awards further highlights Americrane Rentals' dedication to safety, innovation, and professional growth. By integrating technical excellence with community values, Americrane Rentals serves as a model employer, bridging opportunity gaps and cultivating a skilled, future-ready workforce. Americrane Rentals' leadership and partnership with WSA demonstrates their role as a catalyst for sustainable growth and regional transformation.

Partida Optical Workforce Solutions for South Texas

Since opening its doors in 2011, Partida Optical has been a cornerstone of vision care in Laredo. Beyond providing quality optical products and services, the business has become a leader in workforce development and economic growth. By hiring locally, offering competitive wages, and prioritizing training, Partida Optical helps build a stronger, more resilient community. Partida Optical is deeply committed to equipping its workforce with the tools needed to thrive in today's evolving market. Through targeted training, use of modern technologies, and a focus on state and industry trends, both leadership and staff continuously upskill to remain competitive. This commitment extends beyond the company walls through active partnerships with the Texas workforce system and local institutions. One powerful example of this commitment is Partida Optical's collaboration with Workforce Solutions for South Texas and the AARP Foundation. In 2024, the business welcomed a new employee through the Work Experience program. At 63, this employee was seeking to transition from custodial work into an administrative role but lacked office experience. Partida Optical provided the employee with mentorship, training, and the opportunity to build confidence in a professional

setting. After 90 days of hands-on learning, the employee was hired as a full-time office assistant with increased pay and stability.

San Patricio County Economic Development Corporation Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend

San Patricio County Economic Development Corporation has been a driving force in San Patricio County's economic growth, attracting new businesses, securing investments, and creating jobs that benefit both the county and the broader Coastal Bend region. In addition to economic development, San Patricio County Economic Development Corporation is a strong partner in workforce advancement. Together with Workforce Solutions Coastal Bend (WFSCB), San Patricio County Economic Development Corporation hosts the Annual Professional Skills and Trades Career Expo and Job Fair, a no-cost event that supports both employers and job seekers. This event brings together students, businesses, and community partners for a day focused on workforce readiness. More than 595 students from seven school districts meet with local employers to learn about real career opportunities in their communities. Employers take part in a lunch and learn with presentations from WFSCB and the Del Mar College Small Business Development Center, which offer valuable tools to support business growth and workforce retention. This event concludes with a job fair featuring more than 60 employers and several hundred job seekers, resulting in direct hires and expanded talent connections. Through this collaborative effort, San Patricio County Economic Development Corporation has helped strengthen the region's talent pipeline, expanded employer networks, and introduced hundreds of students to local career paths. Its commitment to building connections between education, business, and workforce services has had a lasting impact in the area.

Atlas Electrical, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Plumbing Services, Inc. Workforce Solutions Lower Rio Grande Valley

Atlas Electrical, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Plumbing Services has demonstrated exceptional leadership by actively engaging in workforce programs such as Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, Department of Labor's on-the-job training, internships, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families Youth, and the Summer Earn and Learn program. The company's dedication extends beyond hiring; it invests in training, mentorship, and second chances, welcoming individuals with criminal backgrounds and promoting reintegration into the workforce. Atlas Electrical, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Plumbing Services consistently participates in job fairs to expand opportunities and bridge skills gaps across the region. Atlas Electrical, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Plumbing Services' president, Sarah Segundo-Hammond, is a trailblazer, not only in business but also in workforce advocacy. She serves on the South Texas College Advisory Committee for HVACR and numerous other leadership boards, including the Rio Grande Valley Hispanic Chamber, Better Business Bureau of South Texas, and Leadership Women Texas/America/International. Her companies—Atlas Electrical, Atlas Pest Control, Intentionally Bridge IT, X-Plex Executive Suites, and Hummingbird Park—collectively support workforce innovation and economic growth.

This leadership reflects a deep commitment to advancing workforce access. From serving on HVAC program advisory councils to leading industry-wide scholarship initiatives through Women in HVACR, she ensures the next generation of Texas workers are skilled, prepared, and empowered. Atlas Electrical, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration and Plumbing Services exemplifies the Texas workforce system's vision: connecting employers with a talent pipeline that is trained and resilient.

Chick-fil-A

Workforce Solutions Cameron

For over seven years, Chick-fil-A has been an outstanding community partner and a steadfast supporter of the local workforce. What began with simple job postings has evolved into a meaningful, long-term collaboration through multiple work-based training programs, such as Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) for students with disabilities, Project Phoenix for justice-involved youth, and initiatives supporting out-of-school youth (OSY). Across three Brownsville locations, Chick-fil-A has welcomed participants from these programs, offering more than just jobs; the company invests deeply in their futures. In the past year alone, four OSY and 10 SEAL participants gained invaluable hands-on experience, with all 10 SEAL participants securing full-time employment. Chick-fil-A's commitment goes far beyond meeting basic requirements. From day one, every participant is treated like family, receiving tailored training, daily check-ins, and personalized support designed to help them thrive. Demonstrating the depth of its commitment, Chick-fil-A has appointed an executive leader specifically to oversee these workforce initiatives, reflecting how integral this work is to the company culture. Chick-fil-A has also been an active and consistent participant in job fairs and hiring events over the years—always arriving ready to connect and collaborate, not only with Workforce Solutions Cameron but with other local community partners. Chick-fil-A's dedication to inclusive hiring and mentorship aligns perfectly with the mission of the Texas workforce system. By opening doors for those most in need, the ongoing investment is making a meaningful difference in the lives of the individuals hired and strengthening the entire region's workforce.

GlobalWafers America

Workforce Solutions Texoma

GlobalWafers America is a global leader in semiconductor technology, providing innovative, advanced technology solutions to leading chip manufacturers focused on transforming the foundation of a connected world. GlobalWafers America focuses on innovation through its business. As a trusted partner, it serves 100 percent of the top 25 customers in the semiconductor industry. Three years ago, GWA announced the decision to build the first fully integrated 300-mm chip factory in Sherman—the first to be built in the United States in over 20 years and the largest and most-advanced silicon wafer facility in the world. Now that it is in production, GlobalWafers America is the only 300-mm leading-edge silicon wafer manufacturing plant in the United States, filling a major weakness in the U.S. semiconductor supply chain. Each day over the past three years, approximately 1,900 construction workers have arrived on the site to build this amazing factory. GlobalWafers

America has hired 173 employees in Sherman to date and started shipping products last month. The company recently announced another expansion in Sherman with a \$4 billion investment. GlobalWafers America's HR staff posts job openings with Workforce Solutions Texoma and attends all job fairs. GlobalWafers America is a strong community partner, working tirelessly to provide jobs for local individuals and supporting the local schools and colleges in developing curriculum to train future employees.

Temple Machine Shop, Inc.
Workforce Solutions of Central Texas

Temple Machine Shop demonstrates consistent commitment to workforce development, community engagement, and educational partnerships. Temple Machine Shop supports displaced workers by promptly hiring skilled machinists and employees affected by layoffs at other companies. Temple Machine Shop's leaders proactively engage and coordinate with Workforce Solutions of Central Texas to assist these dislocated workers. Temple Machine Shop is also a strong advocate for veterans, hiring five disabled veterans who represent 5 percent of its workforce. Through partnerships with the Texas Veterans Commission and Heroes MAKE America, Temple Machine Shop participates in veteran hiring events such as Hiring Red, White, & You. Furthermore, Temple Machine Shop works with Temple Independent School District (ISD) and Belton ISD, contributing to career days, advisory committees, and student internships. This year, the company supported Temple ISD's Manufacturing Leadership Camp, offering mentorships and facility tours to inspire future talent and increase awareness of high-demand careers. TMS proudly serves on the Specialization in Manufacturing, Automation, and Robotics Technology (SMART) Advisory Committee at Central Texas College, contributing industry expertise to develop a SMART degree. Thus, Temple Machine Shop is actively invested in next-generation skilled talent and equipping students with technical competencies needed to thrive in modern, automated manufacturing. Temple Machine Shop also supports events like Summer Surge, Graduate Pathways, and Manufacturing Day, contributes to regional civic-improvement efforts, and participates in food drives and developing projects that strengthen local social/economic systems.

Solansky Welding & Pump, Inc.
Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande

Solansky Welding & Pump is a dedicated partner in advancing local workforce development and contributing to the Texas workforce system's vital mission of ensuring Texas remains economically competitive. Its proactive engagement directly aligns with the system's overarching goal to equip both employers and workers with essential resources and skills for success. Workforce Solutions Middle Rio Grande's partnership and collaboration with Solansky Welding & Pump illustrates the strong partnerships with local Boards and institutions, contributing to the development of relevant education and training programs that meet employer demand. Solansky Welding & Pump effectively uses and champions Texas workforce system services, including hiring events and career fairs. This active engagement

contributes to a thriving local workforce system by ensuring employers have access to skilled workers and individuals can readily access programs designed to help them gain relevant skills. Solansky Welding & Pump's commitment to workforce development extends beyond its own operations, impacting the broader community through involvement in career fairs and supporting local schools. This community engagement helps build a robust workforce pipeline and supports local economic prosperity. Solansky Welding & Pump's initiatives directly contribute to TWC's strategic goals, including ensuring all workforce system customers receive efficient and beneficial services, enhancing overall customer experience, and maintaining high levels of integrity and accountability. Its commitment to upskilling the workforce, filling in-demand jobs, and aligning training with high-wage occupations supports efforts to prepare a skilled workforce for future jobs from within the community.

AMOCO Federal Credit Union Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast

AMOCO Federal Credit Union (AMOCO FCU) exemplifies the spirit of innovation, collaboration, and community commitment that defines the Texas workforce system. As a long-standing partner of Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast, AMOCO FCU has demonstrated a consistent dedication to supporting workforce development in the Gulf Coast region through inclusive hiring practices, upskilling initiatives, and community engagement. The forward-thinking approach has not only strengthened its internal workforce but also made a substantial positive impact on the broader economic health of the region. In collaboration with Workforce Solutions Gulf Coast, AMOCO FCU has actively participated in regional job fairs, career readiness workshops, and employer roundtables. Leadership regularly provides feedback on local labor market trends, ensuring that workforce initiatives are aligned with the evolving demands of the financial services industry. Most notably, AMOCO FCU launched a career pathways program in 2024 that focuses on hiring and training entry-level candidates—including those with nontraditional backgrounds—into banking and financial services roles. This initiative has opened doors for individuals who previously lacked access to meaningful career opportunities. Additionally, AMOCO FCU partners with local educational institutions and workforce programs to offer paid internships, financial literacy training, and mentorship opportunities.