

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas

IMPACT REPORT

2011

www.hotworkforce.com

YES! Expo

Year Four: Bigger and better

6 To Success → LINK

New name and branding; expanded service

Social Media

Reaching customers is easier than ever



EMPLOYER SERVICES

Let Us Help You Find Your Dream Employees!

Our local Workforce Solutions Centers have all the resources you need to find great employees. We can help you utilize WorkInTexas.com to find complete, accurate, and relevant job matches. Let us help you with:

- Managing Job Postings
- Locating Job Matches
- Labor Market Information
- Handling Layoffs and Closings
- Trainings
- Applicant Testing
- Labor Law Resources
- Employee Development Funds
- Child Care Services
- Public Transportation
- Unemployment Insurance
- Youth and Veterans' Programs
- And More!

WORKFORCE CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS

Judge Cole Word
Bosque County

Judge Steve Sharp
Falls County

Judge Linda Grant
Freestone County

Judge Justin Lewis
Hill County

Judge Daniel Burkeen
Limestone County

Judge Jim Lewis
McLennan County

Mayor Jim Bush
City of Waco

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Howard Childs

Diane Cowan

Norman Conner

Shirley Crockett

Warren Davis

Leah Flemming

Tony Flores

John Fry

James Gwaltney

Gloria Kirk

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Roy Nash

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Willis Reese

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Ted Taveras

Rosemary Townsend

Jason Vaden

Chris Wolfe

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

2011 was a year of re-examining how we accomplish the Workforce Development Board's goals. Why? Because we pay attention—to the state of the world, the nation, Texas and our region, and these all were sending the message to make sure our funding made the difference we are charged to make.

Our mission is to provide well-trained, ready-to-work employees for businesses to ensure the economic growth of the region—a tall order for any organization to achieve on its own. I know that it takes leadership, time and a sustained commitment across many complementary organizations to achieve this sweeping mission. I believe that if we leverage the impact of each of our dollars at least four-fold, the workforce of the Heart of Texas will be unmatched in skills and preparedness, making our area businesses successful in the national and global economy.

Today's issues—economic, political, educational—underscore the importance of residents, business owners, and community nonprofit organizations working together to identify, advance and steward positive community improvement—for those communities and families impacted by economic hardship, and for businesses on the cusp of expansion. But this work is not simply crisis management. The challenges are deeper and more systemic than today's stock report or unemployment rate. We offer ourselves as advocates, implementers, stewards, and leaders to continuously pursue growth and stability in the Heart of Texas, and as a willing partner with all like-minded people and organizations.

You can learn about our efforts and partnerships toward this end in the ensuing pages. I ask you to take a few moments to look through this report, follow the links and offer your comments so this report can serve not only as our report to you, but your opportunity to give us feedback on our work.

I look forward to hearing from you, and to Chairing this diverse and committed Board of Directors in 2012.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Gaylan Beavers".

Gaylan Beavers
Chair

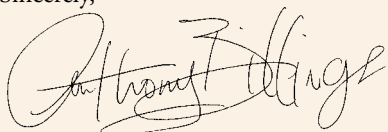
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we began to reflect on the past year in preparing this annual report we saw two competing story lines. The on-going economic recession continues to put pressure on our workforce center services as we assist individuals seek employment at the same time Congress attempts to deal with the large budget deficit by reducing funds for domestic programs. Yet Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas had a successful year in implementing public policies, launching and building new collaborative partnerships, and sustaining our organization in such a way that we will be able to continue our important work for years to come.

In this report you will see the evidence of our efforts to make the most impact through the mutual effort of our Board's leadership and the leadership of other local and regional organizations.


For job fairs targeting veterans, for public transportation efforts for our rural residents to fill the employment needs of area businesses, for the development of high quality child care centers in the region, for a premier career exploration event for high school students, and so many more successful efforts—we thank all of our partners and supporters who help us to achieve our mission.

Sincerely,



Anthony Billings
Executive Director





2011 Annual Awards of Excellence Banquet

Workforce Solutions hosted its Annual Awards of Excellence Banquet on January 20, 2011. The banquet brings together the community to recognize outstanding employers, participants and collaborators in the Heart of Texas region. For the fourth year in a row, Ann Harder, Channel 25 News Anchor, emceed the banquet, along with Ted Taveras, former Chairman of the Heart of Texas Workforce Development Board. Special guests included - in addition to award recipients - local Elected Officials and members of the Heart of Texas Workforce Development Board of Directors.

Award recipients included the following exceptional businesses and individuals:


- Employer of the Year: Pilgrim's Pride
- Employer of Excellence for Bosque County: Double B Foods
- Employer of Excellence for Falls County: Falls Community Hospital & Clinic

- Employer of Excellence for Freestone County: The Giving Tree Christian Day Care Center
- Employer of Excellence for Hill County: Holiday Inn Express – Hillsboro
- Employer of Excellence for Limestone County: Green's Custom Services
- Employer of Excellence for McLennan County: Associated Hygienic Products
- Outstanding Child Care Service Provider: Aunt Rosie's Day Care Center
- Outstanding Program Participant: Jennifer LeFevre
- Outstanding Youth Participant: Jody Hall
- Outstanding Workforce Professional: Ula Davis
- Honorable Elenor Holmes Service to Community: Johnette Hicks

The event was made possible, in part, due to the generosity of the following sponsors:

Gold Level: EOAC Head Start/Early Head Start

Silver Level: TSTC, MCC Corporate Training, and NRG Energy, Inc; and

Bronze Level: Wes and Diane Cowan for Experience Works, Falls Community Hospital and Clinic, and Tejas Logistics. 



Workforce Solutions Wins \$25,000 Service to Business Award

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas received the \$25,000 Service to Business Award from the Texas Workforce Commission for partnering with Waco Transit to develop the LINK bus service between Waco businesses and workers from local and rural communities. Heart of Texas secured a Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grant and additional financial contributions from 14 partners to meet the required local match. Today the service provides more than 1,500 monthly trips and is already helping to decrease absenteeism for area employers.



STEWARD

Solutions to Encourage Widespread Action for Regional Development

The STEWARD Initiative provides small, rural communities the opportunity to educate themselves with successful strategies for planning, budgeting, seeking funding for, and implementing local development projects.

Many smaller communities have ideas and needs for community improvement that can be beneficial to the local economy but may lack the experience, human resources and/or fiscal resources to make these projects a reality.

STEWARD includes resources on:

- Starting and running a Farmer's Market
- Grant Writing Assistance
- Free Legal Services for Non-Profits
- Economic Development Tools

For more information on STEWARD, visit www.STEWARDforGrowth.com.



STEWARD

Solutions To Encourage Widespread Action for Regional Development





LINK TRANSIT

Connecting You to Work, College and Training

Where It All Began

Often times there is a disconnect between workers seeking jobs to employers who are seeking workers: the mobility of potential employees to get to employment and training sites. In 2007, Workforce Solutions and Waco Transit began discussing how public transportation could connect rural communities of southeastern McLennan and Falls counties to Waco, the employment and education hub of the region. If a solution could be found, such a service would provide daily access to jobs, training, as well as generating economic activity in the communities served.

The result was a new public transportation service - formerly 6 To Success and newly rebranded as LINK - that has brought solutions, opportunities, and new ideas to the region. The LINK service introduced

daily bus service from Waco to Marlin with service to Riesel, Chilton, Golinda, and Robinson in November 2007 after securing a Federal Transit Administration Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grant through the Texas Department of Transportation.

The required 50% local match contribution came from 14 committed partners and as a result of this amazing regional partnership, this service has provided more than 45,000 passenger trips to residents of the Heart of Texas who had the will, but needed a way.

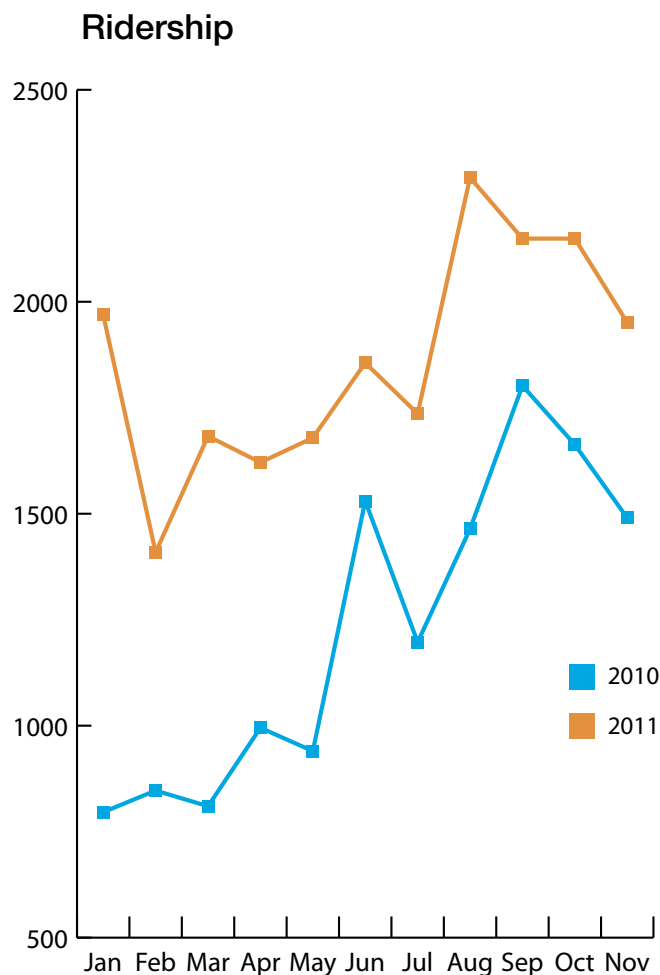
NEW Late Evening Service

Employees of Sanderson Farms listed transportation as the primary reason for leaving their jobs.

Absenteeism and turnover were ongoing problems. Providing late-evening service was a solution for employees, many of whom walked, used taxis, or tried to hitch rides. Now employees on the second shift who sometimes get off work after 2:00am have a reliable ride home. Today LINK's late-evening service provides more than 1,500 monthly trips and is already helping to decrease absenteeism for area employers.

IRS Commuter Benefit

Sanderson Farms became the first employer in the region to take advantage of the Federal law allowing employers to reduce the cost of commuting via public transportation for employees. By offering the IRS commuter benefit, employees save federal withholding and FICA payroll taxes on the amount deducted and



the employer saves paying FICA on the amount deducted. Employees enjoy both the convenience of receiving their monthly bus pass at work and the guarantee that they have reliable transportation to and from work each day. Sanderson Farms is already benefitting from a decrease in absenteeism.

Continuing to Grow

Workforce Solutions received a second Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) grant from the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), which helps to fund this service through 2013. LINK recently won a Service to Business Award from the Texas Workforce Commission and has also been recognized by the Texas Economic Development Council. For more information on LINK, visit: www.mylinktransit.com.



Partners

SANDERSON FARMS

MCC

TSTC

FALLS COMMUNITY HOSPITAL
& CLINIC

CITY OF MARLIN

CITY OF ROSEBUD

CITY OF WACO

CITY OF RIESEL

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR
THE HEART OF TEXAS

WACO TRANSIT, INC.

DENTON B. LESSMAN

EOAC

JIMI LYNN'S STATE FARM
INSURANCE

RESTORATION HAVEN, INC.

CITIZEN STATE BANK

TEXAS STAR BANK

MEMBERS CHOICE FCU

FIRST STATE BANK



Connecting you to work, college, and training



Hiring Heroes Conference & Job Fair

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas sponsored an all day Conference and Job Fair for Veterans & their spouses at the MCC Conference Center in September. The event's emphasis was on Veterans and their spouses, and provided them with an opportunity to meet with multiple employers as well as various educational institutions.

The Hiring Heroes Conference and Job Fair featured booths from employers in the Central Texas region as well as break-out sessions that focused on:

- Veterans' access to Post 9/11 GI Bill and other educational benefits
- Tools to translate military experience into sought after job skills
- Financial benefits of hiring Veterans for Employers

This two-fold event increased job possibilities as well as educational opportunities for approximately 150 veterans and spouses that were actively seeking employment or training.

Thirty employers participated: AAFES, AHP, ATDS, Aramark Dining Services & Facilities, Baylor University, Brazos River Authority, C3, Caterpillar, Color Spot Nurseries, Convergys, Fed-Ex Ground, Ferguson, KWTX-News 10, Nikken, Pro Security Group, SDV Command Source, TX Dept of Public Safety, TYC, and US Secret Service.


Partnering organizations that hosted and/or contributed to the event were: The Veterans Coalition for the Heart of Texas, Texas Veterans Leadership Program, Texas Veterans Commission, KWTX-News 10, TSTC, MCC, Baylor University, Cen-Tex African American Chamber of Commerce, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Greater Waco Chamber, Signs of the Times, and Blue Star Mothers of America. 




Photo courtesy of nikriggsphoto
(www.nikriggsphoto.com)

Associated Hygienic Products (AHP) and NRG Energy Inc. Honored at Texas Workforce Conference

Nominated by Workforce Solutions, Associated Hygienic Products LLC (AHP) was honored as a finalist for the Employer of the Year Award at the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) 15th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held November 30 – December 2, 2011 in Houston. The Award is given to employers that exemplify the tremendous results that are possible when public and private entities partner to put people back to work. Also, NRG Energy Inc. (NRG) was honored NRG received the Employer Award of Excellence, which honors an organization that is actively involved with Texas Workforce Solutions and has made a positive impact on employers, workers and the community.



Using the Texas Back to Work program, AHP hired 23 individuals this year who had been receiving unemployment benefits. AHP started production last year with 173 employees, and now has more than 220 employees and plans to add up to 50 new positions by the end of 2011. Additionally, AHP employees received more than 7,964 training hours through a \$304,948 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission.

NRG operates the Limestone Electrical Generating Station in Limestone County, employing 250 full-time workers. Faced with an aging workforce, NRG partnered with Navarro College to create 31 hours of dual college-credit courses to certify high school students in power plant management and operations, growing an applicant pool from which to fill its anticipated vacancies. 

Financial and Performance Overview*

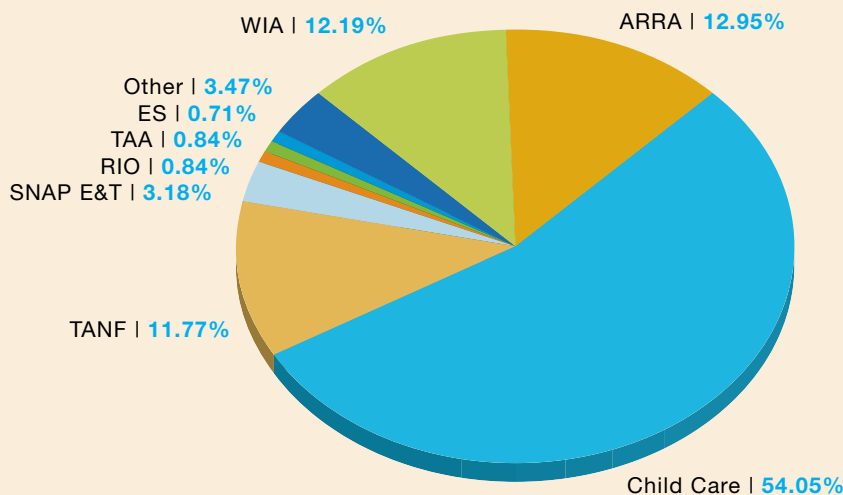
How We Are Serving Employers and Jobseekers in the Heart of Texas

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas proudly provides assistance and services to jobseekers, employers, youth, Veterans, and those seeking child care assistance. This section provides insight into Workforce Solutions' numerous accomplishments, as well as the number of customers served.

We are committed to increasing the number of employers and jobseekers we assist, and finding innovative ways to effectively meet their needs.

**Data valid for Program Year 2010-2011. Financial data includes a breakdown of Heart of Texas Workforce Development Board, Inc. funds allocated by program. Figures expressed as percentages of the total program budget.*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION



PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

RANKED TOP 10 IN THE STATE

(for the following Texas Workforce Commission performance measures)

- 3rd for WIA Youth Placement in Employment/Education
- 4th for Market Share
- 9th for Staff Created Job Openings Filled
- 9th for Staff Guided Entered Employment
- 9th for Average Number of Children Served Per Day



EMPLOYERS

- 2,745 Employers Served
- 2,733 Job Openings Filled
- 76% of Staff Created Job Openings Filled



VETERANS

- 3,387 Veterans Served
- 1,577 Veterans Received Services and Gained Employment



CHILD CARE

- 1,630 Average Number of Children Receiving Child Care Each Day



JOBSEEKERS

- 31,692 Total Universal Population Served
- 10,585 Jobseekers Received Services and Gained Employment
- At-Risk Jobseekers Who Received Workforce Services Averaged +\$1,100 in Higher Earnings
- 131 Jobseekers Completed Training and Received a Credential or Certificate
- \$37,164 Average Earnings for Jobseekers Trained



YOUTH

- 235 Total Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Served
- 70 Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Youth Completed High School or Received a GED

PROGRAMS

- 3,792 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants Placed Into Employment
- 8,064 Unemployment Insurance (UI) Claimants Entered Employment After Receiving Services
- 967 Total Project Re-Integration of Offenders (RIO) Served
- 356 Total Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Adults Served
- 76% of CHOICES Program Participants Entered Employment
- 86% of CHOICES Program Participants Retained Employment
- 86% of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participants Entered Employment
- 86% of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Participants Retained Employment



www.hotworkforce.com

Labor Market Information



Fastest Growing Occupations in the Heart of Texas

Rank	SOC	SocTitle
1	31-1011	Home Health Aides
2	39-9021	Personal and Home Care Aides
3	35-3021	Combined Food Preparation & Serving Workers, Including Fast Food
4	29-1111	Registered Nurses
5	25-2021	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education
6	31-1012	Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants
7	25-2031	Secondary School Teachers, Ex. Special & Vocational Education
8	35-1012	First-Line Supervisors/Managers of Food Preparation & Serving Workers
9	43-4051	Customer Service Representatives
10	25-2022	Middle School Teachers, Ex. Special & Vocational Education
11	31-9092	Medical Assistants
12	29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses
13	21-1012	Educational, Vocational, and School Counselors
14	37-3011	Landscaping and Groundskeeping Workers
15	41-2031	Retail Salespersons



15 Highest Growth Occupations Requiring Post-secondary Training in the Heart of Texas

Rank	SOC	Standard Occupational Title	Education
1	29-1111	Registered Nurses	Associates Degree
2	31-1012	Nursing Aides, Orderlies, and Attendants	Post-secondary training
3	29-2061	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses	Post-secondary training
4	49-9021	Heating, Air Conditioning, & Refrigeration Mechanics & Installers	Post-secondary training
5	25-2011	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education	Post-secondary training
6	39-5012	Hairdressers, Hairstylists, and Cosmetologists	Post-secondary training
7	29-2055	Surgical Technologists	Post-secondary training
8	41-3021	Insurance Sales Agents	Post-secondary training
9	49-3023	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics	Post-secondary training
10	29-2034	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians	Associates Degree
11	41-9022	Real Estate Sales Agents	Post-secondary training
12	29-2071	Medical Records and Health Information Technicians	Associates Degree
13	15-1041	Computer Support Specialists	Associates Degree
14	49-3011	Aircraft Mechanics and Service Technicians	Post-secondary training
15	29-2012	Medical and Clinical Laboratory Technicians	Associates Degree



15 Highest Growth Occupations Requiring a Bachelors Degree in the Heart of Texas

1	25-2020	Teachers – Elementary, Middle and Secondary, except Special Ed
2	13-2011	Accountants and Auditors
3	25-2041	Special Education Teachers
4	25-2012	Kindergarten Teachers, Except Special Education
5	11-9021	Construction Managers
6	27-3031	Public Relations Specialists
7	15-1032	Computer Software Engineers, Systems Software
8	41-3031	Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents
9	17-2112	Industrial Engineers
10	19-3021	Market Research Analysts
11	15-1051	Computer Systems Analysts
12	13-1199	Business Operations Specialists, All Other
13	17-2011	Aerospace Engineers
14	21-1022	Medical and Public Health Social Workers
15	17-2141	Mechanical Engineers



Free Tax Preparation and Financial Literacy


Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas is proud to be a part of the Asset Building Coalition of Waco (ABC Waco), a coalition that is headed by NeighborWorks Waco and includes AARP, A.J. Moore Academy, Baylor University Hankamer School of Business and other local organizations.

ABC Waco assists low- and moderate-income, disabled, elderly, and English Second Language taxpayers in achieving a better quality of life through community partnerships that deliver financial education and awareness, build assets, and provide tax preparation assistance.

In 2011, our efforts resulted in:

- Recruitment and training of 103 volunteers
- Preparation of taxes in Marlin, Mexia, Hewitt and Waco at eight separate free tax preparation sites
- Preparation of 3,333 tax returns for free
- Return of \$5,136,982 in refunds and credits back to low- and moderate-income families and individuals including over \$1.6M in Earned Income Tax Credits and over \$800,000 in Child Tax Credits

- Distribution of over 3,000 free Financial Freedom Education Guides, in both English and Spanish, educating individuals and families on homeownership and FDIC's Money Smart Curriculum

For more information, visit www.abcwaco.org. 



FREE TAX PREPARATION!

On your way to a
FULL refund.

Name: _____

Tax Year: _____

Location: _____

YOU DID IT!

NeighborWorks®
WACO

WORK SOLUTIONS
FORCE FOR THE HOMELESS

The Heart of Texas Homeless Bureau, Inc. is an equal opportunity employer. Programs and services are available to all people regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or age. For more information, please call 800-458-7263.

Expanding Access to Services to Better Serve Our Customers



New Online Tools for Jobseekers

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas has developed a new Jobseeker Self-Service Activities website that offers jobseekers free, online, self-directed resources. Jobseekers can access these services from anywhere that internet access is available, like in their local libraries or from the comfort of their own home. Jobseekers can choose from various stages of their job search, from filing for unemployment insurance to understanding their skills and interests. Tutorials and templates are available for creating a resume' and cover letter, and include information on basic computer skills and educational opportunities.

To access the Jobseeker Self-Service Activities site, visit www.hotworkforce.com/Jobseeker

Social Media Enhancements

In an effort to provide more timely and targeted job search services to Heart of Texas jobseekers, the Workforce Solutions Facebook and Twitter pages began providing daily "HOT Jobs". This information is in addition to the job search tools already available on the Workforce Solutions website. Each day, a new job listing, pulled from WorkInTexas, is posted to the social media sites. Job opportunities vary across numerous industries, and capture jobseekers from all six counties in the Heart of Texas region.

Facebook Page – www.facebook.com
(search for Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas)

Twitter Page –
www.twitter.com/HOTWorkforce

New Partnership with Public Libraries

Libraries often serve the same customers that patronize the Workforce Solutions Centers and, after surveying Librarians from our rural communities, we learned that they are frequently faced with assisting customers with job search needs. In an effort to increase effectiveness in those rural communities, Workforce Solutions sought to partner with the public libraries to expand access to workforce services. We invited Librarians from rural public libraries to a one-day workshop to inform them of all services available through Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas. Workforce Solutions also showed them the new Jobseeker Self-Service Activities website and encouraged them to direct their customers to the site for services.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS HEART OF TEXAS CHILD CARE SERVICES

Do You Need Help Paying for Child Care?

Child Care Services helps parents pay for child care while they work, go to school, or participate in job training. Those eligible for assistance include:

- Families working or in school or training for a minimum of 25 hours per week for a single parent or 50 hours for a two parent household;
- Families who meet income requirements; and
- Families who have a child under the age of 13 who needs child care.

Parents may choose a licensed child care center, a registered home provider, and in some cases, a relative. Visit our website where you can apply online or download the waiting list packet in both English and Spanish.





I-35 Industry Sector Initiatives

I-35 Life Sciences Consortium

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas joined seven other workforce development boards spanning from San Antonio to Dallas-Fort Worth - representing a 51-county region and represents 46.0% of Texas' residents—to establish the I-35 Life Sciences Consortium, a public-private partnership with the goal of establishing a regional coordinated strategy for meeting the recruitment and skills training needs of businesses in the Life Sciences cluster, with an emphasis on health care and bioscience. The Consortium includes 13 employers, 13 colleges, and 11 economic development agencies.

The goal of I-35 Life Sciences Consortium is to address regional skill and talent shortages utilizing shared resources and innovative strategies. The Consortium provides businesses in the industry with a permanent, established interest group that is consistently working to improve talent development and workforce supply. Businesses can now rely on a coordinated body of workforce, education, and economic development to advocate for their needs and collectively find ways to support them. Additionally, the Consortium acts


as an information resource for stakeholders by surveying industry, gathering labor market data, and disseminating that information throughout the region.

It is rare for competing employers and disparate agencies to work together with a common interest. The I-35 Life Sciences Consortium is extraordinary because of the example set by the Boards and others. The example is one of collectivity, and an understanding that a regional approach to workforce challenges is more effective than a local one. Market rivals in health care and biotech are following this example and working together for the good of their industry—an uncommonly effective way to ensure long term strength and stability.

I-35 Corridor Collaborative

Six community college districts joined Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas and seven other workforce development boards to establish the I-35 Corridor Collaborative, a public-private partnership, with the goal of expanding the content matter of postsecondary curricula by layering “green” job skills concepts into existing community college curricula.

In addition to the community college and workforce development board partners, this project has engaged the Texas Foundation for Innovative Communities, Good Company Associates, SkillsNet and over 100 industry representatives from around Texas and the nation. The new and updated courses and course content developed under this grant project has been reviewed for inclusion in the statewide Workforce Education Course Manual and will be made available to all Texas community college districts as well as other interested in the area of sustainability in the built environment.

For more information and a full list of contributors, visit www.I-35initiatives.com. 



YES! EXPO

The record-breaking 4th Annual YES! (Youth Employment Solutions) Expo was held on May 10, 2011 at the Extraco Events Center in Waco.


The purpose of this annual event is to expose youth from area high schools to in-demand occupations with leading employers in high-growth industries and to the knowledge and skills needed for future workforce success. The students that attend have the opportunity to experience hands-on, interactive demonstrations and work samples from businesses while at the same time having candid conversations with employers about what education and skills it takes to enter into and become successful in that industry. Students and faculty from our area training providers—secondary and post-secondary schools—complement activities by advising youth on critical education and career training pathways.

This year's Expo consisted of 90 exhibitors that included private and public companies, access to 18 different college options

from two-year and four-year colleges, and nine high school academies/programs.

The 4th Annual YES! Expo broke the attendance record for having the largest number of high school students - over 1,200 high school students attended from 26 different high schools.

The Texas Association of Partners in Education (TAPE) honored the Yes! to Youth initiative as a Gold Award-Winner for the Community Partnership - Career Education category at its annual Effective Education Partnerships Conference in January.

For more information on the YES! Expo and available resources for youth in the Heart of Texas region, visit www.YESToYouth.com. 



Representatives from the Texas Association of Partners in Education, Region 12 Education Service Center and Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas celebrate with the award for the YES! To Youth Initiative.

YES!

Youth Employment Solutions

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

The 5th Annual YES! Expo will be held May 8, 2012 at the Extraco Events Center.

ChildOne

Tomorrow's Workforce Today

ChildOne, an initiative of Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas, focuses on the health and development of young children. This focus springs from the understanding that early childhood is a critical period for laying the foundation of future success in school and life. Raising healthy, happy, and well-educated children is a joint effort of parents, teachers, healthcare providers, businesses, and community members.

Early Child Recognition Banquet

On April 28, more than 200 child care providers, business and community leaders, and elected officials from throughout the Heart of Texas gathered for the 2nd Annual ChildOne Early Childhood Recognition Banquet.

Bosque County Judge Cole Word emceed the recognition banquet and charmed the group with his warmth, sense of humor, and inspiring words about the need to invest in and provide quality early education.

Susan Gunnewig, Product Development Director with Hatch Early Childhood, Inc., served as the keynote speaker. Her presentation centered on Hatch Early Childhood, Inc.'s IStartSmart Computer System, which is an instructional technology system designed to increase school readiness skills. The highlight of the event was the announcement that Workforce Solutions was able to purchase thirteen of the IStartSmart computers for local Texas Rising Star (TRS) Certified Child Care Providers.

Other distinguished speakers were Misty Gipson and Joe Nesbitt. Gipson, Director of Aunt Rosie's Daycare in Mexia, was one of 25 providers honored at the banquet for their participation in the state-wide Texas Rising Star Certification Program for excellence in child care. Joe Nesbitt, Vice-President of Central National Bank, called on business leaders to invest in quality early education for our youngest children by participating in the new "Adopt a Child Care Center" program. Together the business and child care center will create a plan for how they can work together to improve the care and education of the children.

The event was made possible in part by the generous contributions of the ChildOne Sponsors. Champion Sponsors are: Texas 2-1-1, MCC's Child Development Program, Kaplan Early Learning Company, EOAC Head Start/Early Head Start, and Education Service Center Region 12. Visionary Sponsors are: Advanced Foam Insulation of Texas and The Waco Foundation. Builder Sponsors are Tejas Logistics, Diane and Wes Cowan for Experience Works, Inc., Little Cougar, Inc, and Baylor University's Family and Consumer Sciences Department.



Taking Charge of Change

Workforce Solutions for the Heart of Texas partnered with Workforce Solutions for Central Texas, Temple Community College, McLennan Community College and Raising Texas to bring the Taking Charge of Change Leadership (TCC) Program to the region. This new program involved 17 Child Care Center Directors from both the Heart of Texas and Central Texas Workforce Development areas in the first cohort.

Developed by the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership 19 years ago, the TCC Leadership Development Program is a 9-month comprehensive program for improving the quality of early childhood care and education. All participants in the program receive approximately 100 professional development hours and up to nine college credit hours. A unique feature of the program is the assignment of a mentor to each participant. The Mentors meet with the Child Care Directors at their centers and work with them to develop and implement a Program Improvement Plan to better the quality of the education and care provided to the children. Additionally, the staff at the child care centers received quality training.



New “Heart of Texas Headlight” Tool

Workforce Solutions’ new “Heart of Texas Headlight” is a new searchable resource database available to help caseworkers, childcare providers, and parents find services for young children. Visitors can easily search for child care providers, child care education and programs, health services, social services, and even employment assistance. With a click of a mouse, customers will see the contact information and mapped location of the services that they have chosen to view.

To view the Heart of Texas Headlight, visit www.childonetexas.com/Headlight.html.

For more information on ChildOne, visit www.childonetexas.com



ChildOne
Tomorrow's Workforce Today

ARE YOU LINKED?

6 To Success is now LINK, connecting Marlin, Riesel, Chilton, Golinda, and Robinson to Waco. LINK offers new, expanded job transportation to Sanderson Farms. Late evening service available.

www.myLINKtransit.com
(254) 750-1613




Connecting you to work, college, and training

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS
*** HEART OF TEXAS ***

WTS WacoTransit system

Texas Back to Work

The Texas Back to Work (TBTW) program offers employers monetary incentives of up to \$2,000 for hiring qualified out-of-work Texans. TBTW is a statewide employment initiative funded by the Texas Legislature and promoted by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst.

The purpose of TBTW is to establish public-private partnerships with employers in the local workforce development areas, targeting first-time unemployment insurance claimants who previously earned less than \$15 an hour. The primary goal of TBTW is to aid Texans' timely reattachment to the workforce with the appropriate skills needed to be successful on the job and to reduce reliance on public assistance. 

60: Number of employers in the Heart of Texas region that have participated in TBTW

\$124,282: Total amount (to date) paid to Heart of Texas employers under the initiative

268: Job placements for jobseekers in the Heart of Texas

Work and training funds for employers and job seekers

Texas Back to Work



TEXAS
WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS



Let Us Help You Find The Perfect Job!

Our local Workforce Solutions Centers have all the resources you need to find a great job. We can help you utilize WorkInTexas.com to create complete, accurate, and relevant job applications. Let us help you with:

Writing Your Resume
Career Counseling and Exploration
Skill Assessment Testing
Training to Improve Skills
Internet Access for Job Searches
Job Placement

Scholarships
Child Care Services
Public Transportation
Unemployment Insurance
Youth and Veterans' Programs
And More!

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS CENTER LOCATIONS

Falls County

230 Coleman Street
Marlin, TX 76661
P: (254) 883-5678
F: (254) 883-3778

Freestone County

517 Main Street
Teague, TX 75860
P: (254) 739-2887
F: (254) 739-5151

Hill County

233 E. Elm Street
Hillsboro, TX 76645
P: (254) 582-8588
F: (254) 582-8182

McLennan County

1416 S. New Road
Waco, TX 76711
P: (254) 754-5421
(866) 982-9226 Toll-Free
F: (254) 754-8914

Administrative Offices

801 Washington Avenue, Suite 700
Waco, TX 76701
P: (254) 296-5300
F: (254) 753-3173

www.hotworkforce.com

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