

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Genetic Resources International Partners with Blinn College for a TWC Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN — The Brazos Valley area workforce will benefit from a \$65,450 job-training grant from the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Skills Development Fund.

Genetic Resources International has partnered with Blinn College to upgrade the skills of 20 technicians. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$18.80.

"I commend Genetic Resources International, Blinn College and the Texas Workforce Commission for their commitment to training in such advanced agricultural technologies," said Rep. Lois Kolkhorst. "Support from the Skills Development Fund for this type of cutting-edge training helps position Texas as an industry leader, while also providing the Brazos Valley region with significant job growth."

"The livestock industry remains an important one to the state of Texas, and new technologies such as sperm sexing can move Texas to the leading edge of animal breeding and productivity," said Rep. Fred Brown. "I am grateful for the efforts of the Texas Workforce Commission and Blinn College to make sure that Genetic Resources International can bring the high-skill, high-wage jobs in this field to Brazos County."

"Our Skills Development grants serve everyone well," said Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Workers get the specialized training they need to fill jobs that already exist, and the community benefits from a more highly skilled workforce."

In Fiscal Year 2005, 23 Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 12,247 jobs (3,351 and 8,896 respectively). The jobs paid an average hourly wage of \$17.01. The grants totaled \$8.6 million and assisted 95 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$40.4 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2006-07 biennium.

Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC Web site at www.texasworkforce.org

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

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