

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative Partners with Blinn College for a TWC Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN — The Brazos Valley area workforce will benefit from a \$102,828 job-training grant from the Skills Development Fund administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

Bluebonnet Electric Cooperative has partnered with Blinn College to upgrade 60 jobs. Upon completion of training, workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$14.75.

“This grant reaffirms Blinn College’s status as a recognized leader in workforce development in the Brazos Valley,” said Rep. Lois Kolkhorst. “The Skills Development Fund continues to strengthen the vital partnerships between education, business and the state to improve the economic well-being of all Texans.”

“This Skills Development Fund grant will give workers the training they need to be competitive in their jobs while providing employers a workforce custom trained to their needs,” said TWC Labor Commissioner Ronny Congleton. “The continued support of the Governor and the Legislature make these Skills Development Fund grants possible.”

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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