

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 19, 2006

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Northwest Vista College Receives a \$438,698 Job-Training Grant from TWC

AUSTIN — The Alamo-area workforce will benefit from a \$438,698 Self-Sufficiency Fund grant administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The Self-Sufficiency Fund helps individuals transition back into the workforce from public assistance.

Northwest Vista College has partnered with a seven-member business consortium for the grant, which will be used to train workers for 150 new or upgraded jobs as leasing consultants; office support specialists; telephone bankers; 211 database, information and referral specialists; administrative assistants; and warehouse workers. They will receive an average hourly wage of \$9.42 upon completion of training. The business consortium includes Aramark at SBC, Catholic Charities, CVS Pharmacy, San Antonio Food Banks, The Lynd Co., United Way of San Antonio and Washington Mutual.

While the trainees received instruction, the city of San Antonio's Department of Community Initiatives provided case management, counseling and referral services assistance to help workers remain in school, training and or on the job.

"The Self-Sufficiency Fund provides much-needed job training to help people take the first steps from public assistance to economic independence," said state Sen. Leticia Van de Putte. "These new jobs will provide good wages and health benefits, and improve the quality of life for hundreds of families in Bexar County. I appreciate the efforts of the Texas Workforce Commission and Northwest Vista College to make this happen."

"This grant is one of the best tools the state of Texas has to put people to work," said state Rep. Jose Menendez. "Everyone involved wins – employers win, workers who receive training win, the community college wins, and ultimately, the San Antonio region wins."

"Assisting all Texans to be self-sufficient is one of our top priorities," said TWC Chair and Commissioner Representing the Public Diane Rath. "Thanks to the Governor and the Legislature, TWC makes these grants available each year, assisting thousands of Texans to enjoy the rewards of this great state."

In Fiscal Year 2005, 14 Self-Sufficiency Fund grants created or upgraded 4,322 jobs. The jobs paid an average hourly wage of \$10.52. The grants totaled \$8.7 million and assisted 86 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$6 million to the Self-Sufficiency Fund for the 2006-07 biennium.

Employers seeking more information about the Self-Sufficiency 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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