

# Texas Workforce Press Release

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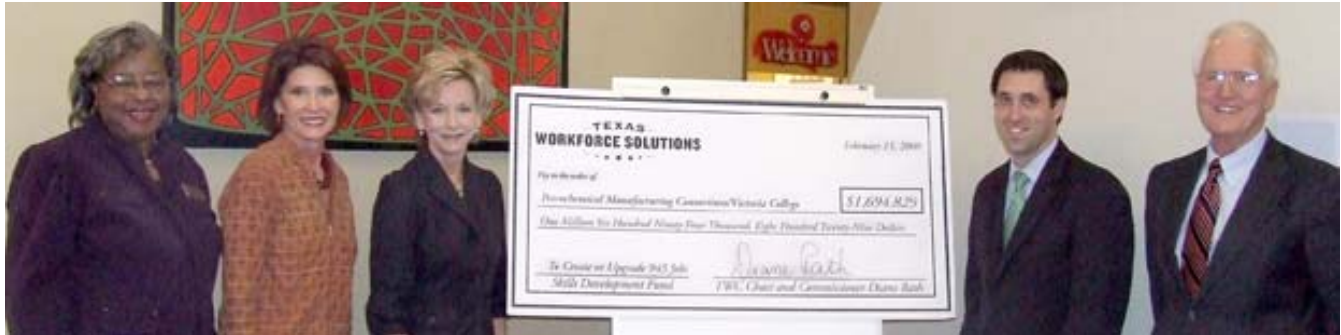
**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **\$1.7 Million Awarded to Victoria College for Petrochemical Industry Job Training from TWC Skills Development Fund**



From left, Director of Golden Crescent Workforce Development Board Laura Sanders, TWC Chair and Commissioner Representing the Public Diane Rath, state Rep. Geanie Morrison, state Sen. Glen Hegar and Victoria College President Dr. Jimmy Goodson present a \$1.7 million Skills Development Fund grant for petrochemical manufacturing training that will create or upgrade 945 jobs in the Golden Crescent. *Photo courtesy of Victoria College*

AUSTIN — Victoria College has partnered with a 10-member petrochemical manufacturing consortium to provide job training using a \$1,694,829 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC).

The grant will be used to custom train workers for 945 new or upgraded jobs. Upon completion of training, workers will fill positions such as electrical engineers, financial analysts, laboratory technicians and human resources specialists. They will receive an average hourly wage of \$27.56. The petrochemical business consortium includes ALCOA AWA Atlantic Point Comfort Operations, Union Carbide Corp., Fluor Operations & Maintenance, Formosa Plastics Corp., INEOS Nitriles, Invista-S.a.r.l., Kelly Services, LyondellBasell, Seadrift Coke L.P. and Testengeer Inc.

“This grant will go a long way toward achieving our goal of a well-trained Golden Crescent workforce,” said state Rep. Geanie Morrison. “The participating companies will get the skilled workers they need, while those workers will receive excellent wages. I appreciate the Texas Workforce Commission and Victoria College for their roles in this vital project.”

“Our Skills Development Fund grants serve everyone well,” said TWC Chair and Commissioner Representing the Public Diane Rath. “Workers get the specialized training they need to fill new and

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**Skills Grant**

existing jobs, and the community benefits from a more highly skilled workforce. Thanks to the Governor and the Legislature, TWC makes these grants available each year, helping hundreds of Texas employers succeed.”

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2007, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 20,831 jobs, which paid an average hourly wage of \$19.04. These grants assisted 281 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature has appropriated \$50 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2008-09 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC Web site at <http://www.twc.state.tx.us/svcs/funds/sdfintro.html>.

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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 programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit [www.texasworkforce.org](http://www.texasworkforce.org).*