

SOLUTIONS

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Discovering New Technologies

Exploring extreme environments is the theme at 2012 Governor's Science and Technology Champions Academy

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On the cover: Texas high school students who participated in the 2012 Governor's Science and Technology Champions Academy received a hands-on lesson in robotics as they designed and built robots for a mission developed by NASA engineers and interns. This was one of many activities that the students experienced as they learned about the science and technology of exploring extreme environments—the theme of this year's summer camp at the University of Houston. *Photo by Debbie Pitts*

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Andres Alcantar

Chairman

Commissioner Representing the Public

As Chairman of the Texas Workforce Commission, I look forward to continuing to build and expand effective partnerships across the state with our community partners, employers, and job seekers. Meeting and exceeding the priorities of these groups can positively affect the lives of Texans and our state's economy.

We inspire and support young Texans who are seeking careers among many different industries. One area we emphasize is preparing our youth for rewarding careers by promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) competence. We also can assist by making students aware of growing employment opportunities and by providing guidance on clear pathways to achieve their goals and dreams. The Texas Reality Check website, along with other services, helps young Texans understand their options and plan their first career steps by providing detailed information about careers that specifically interest them.

Motivating Texas youth to begin and complete a certificate or degree program is one vital role we play in conjunction with secondary and post-secondary educational and training institutions. There is significant value if we generate progress in this key area. Texas businesses and the overall economy benefit greatly when we work together to align the acquisition of workforce skills to meet the needs of Texas employers.

Our services prepare Texans to be part of a workforce that meets the ever changing needs of employers and facilitates the growth of the Texas economy. Our services must remain adaptable and able to respond to the many challenges our customers face while helping them secure the opportunities that lie ahead.

Let's understand our accomplishments, but work hard to create more of them. I look forward to even greater future innovation and success for those who use our services. Thank you for all that you do as we continue to make Texas the best place to work and do business. ■

Texas Reality Check website helps youth explore career possibilities

By Kate Hourin

The Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Texas Reality Check website (texasrealitycheck.com) has a new look and features that make it easy and fun for students to plan for life after high school. The website lets young adults explore the real working world with the click of a button, including salaries for their chosen career and real-time housing and living expenses, allowing them to get a realistic idea of how the career and education choices they make today will guide them in the future.

The site now boasts new cities, a quicker response time, and detailed lists of skills and certifications needed for particular jobs. Texas Reality Check also can help generate students' interest for in-demand, high-paying careers in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM).

"Texas Reality Check provides students, parents, and counselors a useful tool to examine different careers across the broad array of industries in Texas," said TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar. "I encourage students to explore the importance of science, technology, engineering and math competence across high demand, exciting careers."

TWC's Labor Market & Career Information (LMCI) Department Director Richard Froeschle knows students have discovered the value of texasrealitycheck.com, which averages one million page hits per month during the school year.

"A recent survey by Charles Schwab indicates that many teens have unrealistic expectations about career earnings," he said. "This site



The new Texas Reality Check website boasts a quicker response time, newly introduced career videos, more locations to choose from, and detailed lists of skills and certifications needed for particular jobs. *Photo by TWC Staff*

allows them to better understand how they can achieve their professional goals."

LMCI partnered with the Texas Education Agency to bring the first Reality Check Budget Calculator to fruition in 2001, from innovation to securing funds. More than 20 states now have their own version of the Texas Reality Check program.

Texasrealitycheck.com also helps users budget for student loans and savings accounts.

"As students leave home and begin life in the real world, they will need to pursue a career and earn enough money to pay their bills," said TWC Commissioner

Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. "Texas Reality Check helps them determine what education and skills they need to secure a good job and support themselves."

Students can use the site to:

- choose a career and determine a budget based on the average salary paid for those jobs;
- estimate their monthly living expenses and select a career based on that budget; and
- select a salary and discover which careers offer that income. ■

To Infinity and Beyond!

Brownsville ISD introduces new STEM curriculum for middle schoolers

By Shannon Thomas

Attracting key industries and boosting the education prowess of the future workforce in the Brownsville area will be key to keeping the area's brightest workers from leaving the region.

"About a dozen cities our size in Texas suffer when our best and brightest leave the area for bigger cities and more opportunities," said Gilbert Salinas, vice president for the Brownsville Economic Development Council. "With some of our education initiatives, our community is taking ownership of the development of an advanced skills workforce pipeline."

One such initiative is the Brownsville Independent School District's (BISD) launch of the Infinity Project, a specialized science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) curriculum available to middle-school students for the 2012-2013 school year.

The project will work to reinforce math and science curriculum through technical, mechanical, civil, environmental, and biomedical engineering fields. Students will apply concepts through hands-on design projects such as building speakers, robots, rockets, and prosthetics.

"We took a look at our district-wide magnet programs and decided to revamp them," said Dora Saucedo, administrator for secondary curriculum in math and science for BISD. Magnet schools are public schools with specialized courses or curricula. "STEM careers are what the nation is moving toward, and we want to make sure our kids are ready for a career in those industries," Saucedo said.



"STEM careers are what the nation is moving toward, and we want to make sure our kids are ready for a career in those industries."

Dora Saucedo
Administrator for secondary curriculum
in math and science for BISD

The school district already has a STEM magnet program for the area's high schools, but the Infinity Project is the first STEM initiative aimed at BISD's 11 middle schools.

"When designing the middle school program, we wanted to ensure that participating students formed a solid foundation early on so they can build upon it in their future studies and transition seamlessly into our high school programs," Saucedo said.

Brownsville officials are currently engaging in a community-wide effort to bring SpaceX, the space rocket launch design and manufacturing company, to Boca Chica Beach for a commercial space launch site. The proposed site is five miles south of Port Isabel and South Padre Island.

"I don't think it's an accident that all elements, including the SpaceX

proposal and our school district's programs, are coming together to achieve the goal of increasing our pipeline of highly skilled workers," Salinas said.

South Texas leaders have been working with SpaceX for more than a year to encourage the company to locate to the Brownsville area. Officials have said the company could bring 600 direct jobs to the area with minimum annual salaries of \$55,000.

The potential for higher salaries and an influx of STEM-related jobs to the area could help prevent Brownsville's highly skilled workforce from leaving the region.

The Infinity Project will begin with the sixth grade class this fall. BISD expects about 100 sixth-grade students per school to participate during its first year. Admission is selective, with first priority going to students who score 80 percent or higher on their fifth-grade end-of-year science and math report cards.

"Imagine how a young person will benefit potentially growing up with a space port in his or her backyard," said Juan Garcia, deputy director for Workforce Solutions Cameron. "The SpaceX Project could be a catalyst for even more interest in STEM careers in the Brownsville area. These scientists and engineers can come to our schools and help sell the idea of science to the kids." ■

Community College program encourages women to pursue renewable energy fields

By Rachael Pierce

Words like renewable energy and sustainability are becoming commonplace in today's society. Women are capitalizing on this growing career field, and local colleges are gearing efforts to recruit women to these in-demand jobs.

Shayna Lee is one woman who has found her forté in renewable energy.

Lee was a single mom when she began her studies at Austin Community College (ACC). The continuing education program at ACC was a quick route that fit into her life, helped her accomplish her education goals, and allowed her to obtain a long-term career. She received an Electronics/Advanced Technologies-Renewable Energy certificate from ACC.

"I knew it would be difficult to fit in a long-term program, so the certificate program was more attractive to me," said Lee. "I've always been interested in sustainability, and I was looking for a quick entry into the job market."

Lee, who now works as an engineer technician for Austin Energy, was a perfect candidate to receive ACC's message. The community college's mission was to help women capitalize on new technologies in the "green" jobs arena by bringing awareness to and promoting more women in renewable energy jobs.

ACC secured a \$59,800 grant from the U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau (Women's Bureau) to assist with outreach efforts for a full year. To encourage women to consider careers in the renewable energy field, ACC targeted women through advertisements and a new Women in Green Jobs website (www.austincc.edu/green). The college also conducted focus groups



Austin Energy engineer tech Shayna Lee visits a customer's home to perform a verification on their solar water heater for Austin Energy's Residential Solar Water Heater Rebate Program.

Photo by Rachael Pierce

and participated in job fairs.

Efforts to bring women into these types of careers continue, according to Linda Young, special assistant to the president for external affairs at ACC.

"The Women's Bureau set aside funding to support small projects like the one at ACC to get women into green jobs," said Young. "ACC has continued its outreach for this initiative and is building its recruitment efforts around women."

Young noted one of the obstacles for many women considering renewable energy fields is that, traditionally, they don't see themselves in these types of jobs. ACC is working to change this perception and is encouraging women to pursue careers in the renewable energy arena.

"Women may have resisted going into these fields because they don't see other women there," said Young. "We want to show women that working in green jobs is a lucrative option that can offer transferable skills."

ACC offers a range of continuing education certificates for men and

women interested in renewable energy training programs, including Environmental Technology, Building Construction, Advanced Solar Photovoltaic Installer, Solar Electric Systems, and Weatherization Tech, among many others. Certificate programs can be completed in as few as three semesters. Two-year Associate of Applied Science degree programs also are available.

Young hopes women will take advantage of the opportunities that are available.

"Just to say that these types of fields are possibilities and opportunities for the future is a huge new outlook for women, and it's very exciting," said Young.

ACC sustainability efforts span beyond its classroom initiatives. In 2009, the college initiated a system-wide promise for environmental stewardship. Actions to fulfill this commitment range from phasing out incandescent light bulbs to installing solar panel systems at three campuses to providing electric vehicle charging stations at numerous campuses. ■



We Are the Champions

Science Fair winners gain new STEM insights
at Governor's Science and Technology
Champions Academy



By Debbie Pitts

Fifty-five high school students from across Texas spent a week this summer learning about extreme environments including the Arctic, oceans, desert, and space at the 2012 Governor's Science and Technology Champions Academy (GSTCA). The University of Houston hosted this year's academy, where the theme was "exploring extreme environments," as the students experimented with

the technologies that will allow us to live and work in these areas. Students awarded a spot at this weeklong residential camp were top finalists from the senior division of the ExxonMobil Texas Science and Engineering Fair held in April.

"The camp enabled these outstanding students to explore technologies that will help us live and work in places like Mars or the bottom of the ocean," said 2012

TOP: 2012 participants in the Governor's Science and Technology Champions Academy gather around the arena, to compete with robots they designed and built, in the Mountain Mayhem Robotics Mission at the NASA Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory building. Each of the two teams employed four robots to move "moon rocks" from one territory to the other. **ABOVE:** Janae Bonnen (center) of Friendswood High School and Victoria Dobbie (right) of the Academy of Science and Technology at the Woodlands try out their underwater robots while camp counselor Jared Atkins, a University of Houston student, (left) assists. *Photos by Debbie Pitts*

Youth Focus

GSTCA Director Karen Cohen. “Theirs will be the generation that will begin inventing the technologies that will get us to these extreme environments and making it possible for us to live, mine resources, and make discoveries in these locations.”

Scholarships were awarded to the students and four teacher/mentors for the residential camp through a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission. GSTCA is part of an ongoing effort to expose students to careers which involve science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines. This is the fifth year for GSTCA, which supports Gov. Rick Perry’s initiative to prepare Texas’ future workforce with advanced skills required for high-demand careers. Participants toured NASA’s Johnson Space Center in Houston; the Houston Museum of Natural Science; and the Sonny Carter Training Facility at the NASA Neutral Buoyancy Laboratory; and the Texas Seaport Museum and the Offshore Technology Museum in Galveston.

“These students not only were able to visit scientific locations, they participated in hands-on learning opportunities, which allowed them to experience many different aspects of STEM fields,” said Dr. Raymond Cline Jr., University of Houston associate dean of research for the College of Technology. “They experienced working in teams, much the way they will in the working world, and they really enjoyed interacting with other students who have similar interests and intellect.”

Hands-on activities included building a model bridge based on an engineering design by Leonardo Da Vinci; riding in an actual space exploration vehicle that will be used to explore the moon and/or Mars surface; competing in a robotics contest developed and run by NASA engineers and interns; building underwater robots; and creating a virtual petroleum



Mai-Anh Vu (left) of McNeil High School in Round Rock sits in the driver’s seat of a NASA Space Exploration Vehicle (exterior view left) as it drives across Mars-like terrain while Diana Ruan (center) of Bellaire High School in Houston and Linda Ren (right) of Midway High School in Waco look on. Following this trek in an actual space vehicle, student teams built their own robotic vehicles and used them to compete in Mountain Mayhem, a robotics mission developed by NASA engineers for the camp.

company, which discovered oil and gas.

“I really enjoyed the petroleum challenge,” said Sydney Hutton, an incoming sophomore from Bowie High School in Austin. Her science fair project on the effects of organic labeling on taste perception was the runner up for Best in Show at this year’s fair. “It was fun working with my team while learning about all the different aspects involved with running a petroleum business, like marketing, in addition to the science of the oil and gas industry.”

The students and teachers also heard from experts in the field, such as Houston-area science teacher Dolores Garay, who spoke about “Adventures from Pole to Pole and to the Deep Blue Seas” based on her travels to both the north and south poles, and Lorraine Shroeder, a learning support services counselor who discussed “How to Survive Your

Freshman Year of College.”

“We were very happy to be given the opportunity to host the camp this year,” Dr. Cline said. “The Houston area has so much to offer in terms of STEM educational and career opportunities. It was great to have these bright minds on our campus and get to expose them to all we have to offer.”

Academy Director Cohen added that the camp was successful in its mission.

“Although all of these students came in with knowledge in specific STEM disciplines, it was neat to see them develop interests in other areas that they hadn’t previously considered after being exposed to practical career applications,” Cohen said.

Previous GSTCA summer camps have been held on the campuses of the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of Texas at San Antonio. ■

Meeting the skills needs of employers

Community colleges
creating new degree
programs to help
train future workforce

By Mark Lavergne

Community colleges across Texas are adding new degree programs, courses, and certificate programs to meet the high-tech needs of employers and provide opportunities to job seekers. From renewable energy to social media, colleges are not only keeping up with the times, they are responding to future expectations for the workforce.

In the Panhandle and West Texas, a large electrical grid currently under construction is designed to transport wind energy to downstate markets like Austin and the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. To help meet the growing need for utility workers to construct and maintain new wind-power transmission lines, Amarillo College is offering the Utility Power Worker Program. The college has recently implemented several renewable energy programs offering two-year Associate of Applied Science degrees.

Amarillo College President Dr. Paul Matney said the knowledge and skills obtained through the programs make students strong candidates for electrical and utility jobs outside the industry.

“Our renewable energy programs have a strong manufacturing and



Amarillo College instructor Terry Tucker demonstrates a component used in harnessing energy from wind. Photo courtesy of Amarillo College

electrical core,” Matney said. “The skills that wind turbine technicians learn can be put to use on the electrical grid and at other manufacturing and machining companies.”

Increased employer demand for information technology (IT) skills is leading to expansion at Austin Community College (ACC), said vice President of Instruction Mike Midgley.

“ACC’s IT track now includes new instruction in Java programming, as well as new courses examining the business applications of social media,” Midgley said.

ACC has been working with the Austin Chamber of Commerce to develop certification programs for social media and business and technical communications.

“High-tech degree programs offered at community colleges are very affordable and can help thousands of students become competitive. It definitely helped me at ACC,” said Gabriel Pintilie, a recent graduate of ACC’s IT program. ACC’s programs refreshed what he had learned as a programming student in Romania, he added. Pintilie now works at National Instruments as a hardware technician.

San Jacinto College (SJC) in Houston is offering new certifications and two-year degrees starting this fall in the Maritime Technology Program and the Construction Management Program. The Maritime Technology Program aims to meet future infrastructure needs. For an upcoming project to expand the Panama Canal by 2014, the Houston and Gulf Coast region will need safety-trained, Coast Guard-certified maritime workers who can secure a ship to a dock, operate radar equipment, and manage crowds during a crisis. SJC’s associate degree program will train students in those skills.

Larry Kness graduated from SJC’s construction management program in the late 1990s, and now runs his own construction business, Nest Construction Services in Dayton, Texas. He serves on the advisory committee for the newly updated program, which will emphasize energy efficiency and sustainability in building construction.

“It will be wonderful to get students certified in energy-efficient construction,” he said. “The program is about common-sense best practices and using environmentally friendly materials, which are abundant now.” ■

Seven weeks to mold the future

Welding certification program gives workers skills to jump start careers

By Rachael Pierce

A new seven-week fast-track welding program in Abilene is helping meet the growing needs among local employers for trained welders, while helping workers gain the skills they need to increase their employability and career options.

The success of the fast-track program at Cisco College is already evident. From the first class this spring, 13 of the 14 participants have gained employment as welders and one decided to further his education to become a welding inspector.

“The fast-track welding program is serving the purpose it was designed for, to provide a skilled labor force for local employers,” said Steve Collins, business resource consultant for Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas (West Central). “The class is meeting employers’ needs and placing individuals into jobs that allow them to support their families.”

A partnership among West Central, the Development Corporation of Abilene, and Cisco College is helping train this new fleet of welders. Local employers, including Smith Pipe of Abilene, Lauren Engineers & Constructors Inc., Robinson Fans Inc., RENTECH Boiler Systems Inc., Tiger Manufacturing Co., Frontier Welded Products Inc., and Overland Tank Inc. also have joined the partnership.

Earning a spot in the fast-track program is competitive. A field of 47 applicants was narrowed down to 14 participants for the third round of training in June.

“We tell applicants to treat applying for this program like they’re applying for a job,” said Ed Allred, facilitator for West Central. “They have to fill out an application, come in for an interview, participate in assessments,



Brandon Payne, a welder at Overland Tank Inc., welds together a skid, which can be used to move equipment. As a participant in the seven week fast-track program, Payne obtained the skills he needed to successfully work as welder. Photo courtesy Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas

and pass background checks and drug screenings. Once everything is together, applicants are essentially ‘hired’ for the class.”

Students receive their training at Cisco College, and learn the skills necessary to earn four welding certifications and an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Safety Certification. Students receive hands-on training in specific welding techniques seven hours a day, four days a week, while also participating in classroom lectures. This experience translates directly into what they will experience in the workforce.

“Welding is a skill you have to learn; you can’t just walk in and do it,” said Rick Marks, division chair of business and industrial technology at Cisco College. “The more hands-on work you do, the more likely you will be prepared for the workplace.”

In addition to skills training, participants spend time at West

Central taking classes on interviewing and communication skills, how to be better employees, and how to develop a strong work ethic. Participants create profiles on WorkInTexas.com, the Texas Workforce Commission’s comprehensive online job search resource and matching system.

Furthermore, students take tours at partnering businesses to give them a first-hand look at working as a welder.

Through the fast-track program, students are armed with the knowledge they need to apply for entry-level welding positions. Wages can range from \$13 to \$16 per hour, according to Robert Puls, West Central business development consultant.

Brandon Payne, a fast-track student, is now employed as a welder with Overland Tank Inc. Participating in the welding program made a huge difference for Payne.

“This training has helped me obtain a career, not just a job,” said Payne. “I can now provide for my family.” ■

Workforce partnerships make Career Expo a success

Goodwill Industries of Central Texas (Goodwill) partnered with Workforce Solutions Capital Area, the Austin Mayor's Committee for People with Disabilities, and the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services to host the 14th Annual Community Career Expo in Austin in May. More than 750 job seekers attended, and 50 employers and educators participated in the event.

The Expo was made accessible to all individuals by way of sign language interpreters for the hearing impaired, sighted guides for the visually impaired, and Spanish translators for Spanish-speaking attendees. Together, these tools helped assist in the networking process for attendees. The event also was accessible by public transportation.

Along with networking, the expo offered job-search workshops that included topics like résumé evaluations from employment counselors, overcoming criminal backgrounds in the job search, dressing for success, and assistive technology for people with disabilities. Job seekers also had computer lab access at the event in order to update their résumés on-site. Employers were provided resources on the benefits of hiring people with barriers to employment.

Additionally, the Expo offered activities for those seeking health care-related careers, including a mock surgery demonstration sponsored by the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses.

Tarrant County employee honored at the White House



Mervil Johnson, project director for Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County's FACT (Fathers



Binh Huynh, a surgical technologist with Seton Healthcare Family, (left) and Alanna Gail Scott (center), a registered nurse with the Association of periOperative Registered Nurses, educate job seeker Pamela Assad (right) about careers in the surgical field at the 14th Annual Community Career Expo in Austin. *Photo by Laura Ybarra*

and Children Together) program, met with administration officials at the White House's Champions of Change event on June 13. Champions of Change is a campaign that recognizes outstanding individuals from around the country each week.

FACT is the workforce initiative dedicated to increasing the viability and economic stability of low-income fathers and their families in Tarrant County. Johnson was one of 30 individuals recognized during the event by Deputy Assistant to the President Michael Strautmanis for their commitment to promoting responsible fatherhood.

Prior to the Champions of Change event, the Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County held a Regional Fatherhood Conference May 24-25, in partnership with FACT. Eugene Schneeberg, director for the White House's faith-based and neighborhood partnerships, delivered the keynote address at the conference. He presented awards to eight Fatherhood Heroes from Tarrant County for their role in promoting responsible

fatherhood in their communities as part of President Barack Obama's Fatherhood and Mentoring Initiative. Judy McDonald, executive director of Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, was one of the Fatherhood Heroes recognized at this event.

Since its launch in February, 175 fathers have joined the FACT program.

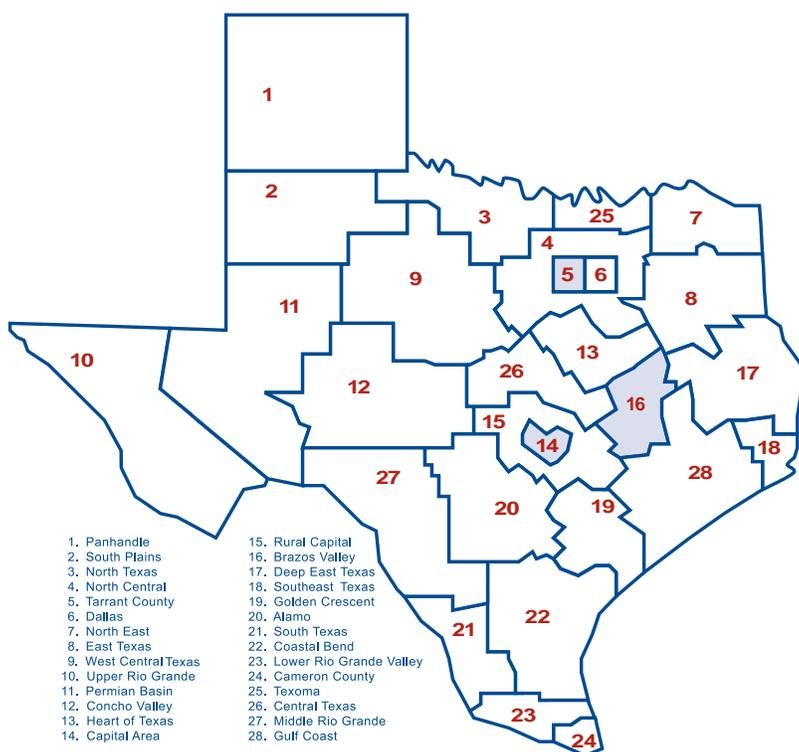
Annual job fair in Brazos Valley focuses on veterans

Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley's (Brazos Valley) 8th Annual Independence Job Fair on July 3, drew more than 325 job seekers including



many veterans who are the target market for these events.

Penncro Associates Inc. co-sponsored the event with Brazos Valley and 25 employers were in attendance offering jobs. Some of the participating companies included the City of Bryan, the City of College Station, FedEx, JP Morgan Chase & Co, NAMPAC (Bway Corp.), Oldham Goodwin Group LLC, Reynolds



Capital Area Board helps launch WERC Program

Workforce Solutions Capital Area (Capital Area), along with 10 community partners, launched the Workforce and Education Readiness Continuum (WERC) program in April to help prepare



Austin-area residents to enter or re-enter today's competitive job market.

Designed to seamlessly provide services ranging from GED preparation and testing services, English as a Second Language classes, job-readiness training, and college-level education, WERC connects 38 provider locations to offer a full slate of workforce and education services. As clients progress through the program, they are equipped with the tools and support needed to achieve self-sufficiency.

Funded by a grant from the city of Austin, WERC targets individuals at or below 200 percent of the poverty rate and who face one or more barriers to self-sufficiency such as low literacy, lack of basic education, and limited work skills.

Capital Area also acts as the general contractor for the program by recruiting partners, developing the framework for the program, and serving as the fiscal manager.

In the first quarter of the 30-month program, WERC partners served more than 525 Central Texans and enrolled nearly 400 people in the program. Of those, 33 enrollees have completed an educational program, and 12 enrollees have increased their income as a result of employment-related services. Overall, 25 percent of the enrollees have increased their income and are now earning a self-sufficient wage.

Other community partners in the program include American YouthWorks, Any Baby Can, Austin Community College District, Goodwill Industries of Central Texas, and the Literacy Coalition of Central Texas.

& Reynolds Co., Sanderson Farms Inc., Kent Moore Cabinets Ltd., GATX Corp., Texas A&M University, Verizon Wireless, and United Recovery Systems LP. Each employer had a minimum of five job openings.

Also at the event, Executive Director of Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley/Brazos Valley Council of Governments Tom Wilkinson presented a check for \$1,208 to benefit the Wounded Warrior Program.

Job seekers were able to talk with each employer about job opportunities and skills required for each position. Onsite computer labs also were available for job seekers to use to apply for positions that required online applications.

Summer camp gives students taste of robotics careers

The University of Texas at Brownsville and Texas Southmost College (UTB-TSC) hosted a summer camp in June for 8th and 9th graders to

compete in a game of robot soccer.

Funded through a \$76,000 grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), students learned the basics of building and electronically programming robots five days a week for four weeks. TWC's grant funded scholarships for students to attend the camp.

Dr. William Berg, who chairs the Engineering Department at UTB-TSC and taught the math portion of the curriculum, said students enjoyed making their own robots.

During the camp, student teams built a total of five robots, each more advanced and with more in-depth mathematical and scientific principle than the previous one. In the final week, students built robots mobile enough to play soccer by remote control.

Students also got to chat remotely with engineers who are designing the Mars rovers and another group of professionals designing robots that would operate in zero-gravity environments.



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The Texas Workforce Commission, in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards, forms Texas Workforce Solutions.



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