

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: May 8, 2015

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Kohler, M & F Gauge Partner with Ranger College for \$1.4 Million Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – Kohler Co. and M&F Gauge and Specialty Co. Inc. have partnered with Ranger College to provide customized training for new and incumbent employees using a \$1,358,496 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). An additional \$100,000 grant was also awarded to Ranger College by the Brownwood Economic Development Corporation for supplemental training and to leverage the Skills Development Fund grant. Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Brownwood will also provide some portions of the training.



TWC Commissioner Hope Andrade presents a \$1,358,496 Skills Development Fund grant to representatives of Ranger College, Kohler and M & F Gauge. Pictured from left: Director of Brownwood Economic Development Corp. Emily Crawford, Ranger College President Dr. William Campion, Business & Development Consultant M & F Gauge Safety & Environmental Coordinator Roger Matthews, Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Business & Development Consultant Roger Puhls, Kohler representatives: Connie Madrid, Mitzi Dahlberg, Lisa Gonzales, Christopher McAfee, Joe Benoit, Jeff Mitchell, Armando Vazquez and Jon Ellis, Commissioner Andrade, Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Executive Director Mary Ross, and Ranger College Vice President of Workforce Development Dixon Bailey.

Photo courtesy: Ranger College

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The grant will be used to provide custom training to 975 new and incumbent workers with business-and-industry focused instruction, to include general electrical, basic computer skills, workplace safety, and site specific manufacturing process training. Those trained will include finishers, casters and upper level management. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$17.46.

“We are excited to award this grant from the Skills Development Fund to help meet identified job training needs for the manufacturing industry here in Brownwood,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Hope Andrade. “This grant will result in a skilled workforce, a better quality of work for the employer and in-demand certifications for many individuals in this community.”

From the program’s inception in 1996 through 2014, Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 316,000 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 4,074 employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature allocated nearly \$48 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2014-15 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at www.texasworkforce.org/skills.

Ranger College contact: Workforce Development Vice President Dixon Bailey, dbailey@rangercollege.edu, 325-668-9657

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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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8942 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.