

# Texas Workforce Press Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** August 12, 2016

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Lisa Givens

**PHONE:** 512-463-8556

## **Alcoa Mills Products Partners with Texarkana College for \$109,581 Job-Training Grant**

AUSTIN – Alcoa Mills Products has partnered with Texarkana College to provide job training for 71 new and incumbent workers using a \$109,581 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will benefit workers in the Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas area.

This grant will be used to provide customized training to 71 new and incumbent workers for industry-related topics with focused instruction on high voltage training, industrial manufacturing maintenance, mobile crane operations and general industry safety. Trainees will include production casters, maintenance mechanics, electricians and product engineers. Upon completion of training, the workers will receive an average wage of \$21.31.



TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez presents a \$109,581 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Texarkana College and Alcoa Mills Products. Pictured from left are: Texas State Rep. Gary VanDeaver, Alcoa Director of Operations Pete Velotas, Texarkana College Board Trustee Anne Farris, Commissioner Alvarez, Texarkana College President James Henry Russell and Workforce Solutions Northeast Texas Executive Director Randy Reed.

*Photo courtesy of Texarkana College*

**-more-**

“The partnership between Texarkana College and Alcoa Mills Products on this Skills Development Fund grant will benefit both the local community and its workforce,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez. “Our labor force is among the most talented and skilled in the world and we continue to seek and implement strategies to improve the skills of Texas workers.”

The Skills Development Fund grant program is celebrating 20 years of success as the state’s premier training program in 2015-16. The fund was initiated by the Legislature in September of 1995 and first began awarding contracts in 1996. During that time the Skills Development Fund grants have created or upgraded more than 329,333 jobs throughout Texas. The grants have assisted 4,141 employers with their customized training needs.

The Legislature allocated \$48.5 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2016-17 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at [texasworkforce.org/skills](http://texasworkforce.org/skills).

Texarkana College contact: Director of Institutional Advancement Suzy Irwin, 903-244-1153 or [suzanne.irwin@texarkanacollege.edu](mailto:suzanne.irwin@texarkanacollege.edu).

###dhp

*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](http://www.texasworkforce.org). To receive notifications about TWC programs and services subscribe to our email updates.*