

Texas Workforce Press Release

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Manufacturing Consortium Partners with Richland College for \$629,602 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – Seven members of the Dallas County Manufacturers’ Association (DCMA) are partnering with Richland College to provide job training using a \$629,602 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The members of the DCMA include Ecolab Inc., General Dynamics Ordnance and Tactical Systems Inc., J & A Manufacturing Inc., KARLEE Co., Kraft Foods Group Inc., Marlow Industries Inc. and Micropac Industries Inc.

The grant will be used to provide custom training to 334 incumbent workers in mechanical and electrical processes, computerized systems, machine programming, manufacturing blueprints, automated systems operation, and hydraulic, pneumatic and electrical systems.



TWC Commissioner Ronny Congleton presents a \$629,602 Skills Development Fund grant check to Richland College and a Dallas-area manufacturing consortium.

Front row pictured from left: Commissioner Congleton, J & A Manufacturing Representative Shellie Terrazas , Richland College Chief Corporate and Workforce Development Officer Mehrdad Haroutunian, Richland College President Dr. Kay Eggleston, Kraft Foods Associate HR Manager Brandy Hicks-Miller

Back row pictured from left: Richland College Director of Community and Chamber Relations Tandy Dollar, General Dynamics Human Resources Manager Craig Conner, Ecolab Plant Manager Paul Putchiniski, Micropac Industries CEO and President Mark King, Kraft Foods Plant Manager Mark Lehman

Photo courtesy Richland College

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Those trained include maintenance mechanics and technicians, operational team leads, manufacturing technicians, and assembly operators. Upon completion of training, all workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$22.77 and some trainees may be eligible for advanced industry certifications.

“Our Skills Development Fund grants serve everyone well,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “Workers get the specialized training they need and the communities benefit from a more highly skilled workforce.”

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.

College contact: Tandy Dollar, Director of Community and Chamber Relations, 214-797-2861, tdollar@dcccd.edu

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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.