

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 9, 2011

MEDIA CONTACT: Lisa Givens

PHONE: (512) 463-8556

Tyler Junior College Partners with Delek Refining for \$180,390 Job-Training Grant

AUSTIN – Tyler Junior College has partnered with Delek Refining to provide job training using a \$180,390 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC). The grant will be used to custom train 277 new and incumbent workers.

“Skills Development Fund grants give a boost to our local workforce,” said state Rep. Leo Berman. “Together, Tyler Junior College and Delek Refining will use this grant to provide training to nearly 300 workers, which will address the needs of Delek while increasing employees’ skills.”



TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar (third from the left) presents a \$180,390 Skills Development Fund grant check to representatives from Tyler Junior College and Delek Refining. Pictured from left to right: Tom Mullins, President/CEO, Tyler Economic Development Council; David Anderson, Operations Manager, Delek Refining; Commissioner Alcantar; State Rep. Bryan Hughes, District 5; Bob Gonzales, Training Supervisor, Delek Refining; Dr. Mike Metke, President, Tyler Junior College; John Hills, TJC Board member; Frank Simmons, Director of Best Practices, Delek Refining; and Wendell Holcombe, Director of Workforce Development for the East Texas Council of Governments.

– more –

The grant will provide training to address the business' need for skilled process technicians and to ensure a safe working environment. Those trained will include terminal operators and technicians, drivers, and master craftsmen. Upon completion of training, the workers will earn an average hourly wage of \$27.27.

“The Skills grants deliver customized training solutions that help Texas employers and workers succeed in the marketplace,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “This investment builds not only employee skills, but the capabilities of our community colleges to the benefit of employers and the community. We are pleased to make this investment.”

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2010, Skills Development Fund grants created or upgraded 26,718 jobs, which paid an average hourly wage of \$26.07. These grants assisted 207 Texas employers with their customized training needs. The Legislature appropriated \$90 million to the Skills Development Fund for the 2010-11 biennium. Employers seeking more information about the Skills Development Fund may visit the TWC website at skills.texasworkforce.org.

Tyler Junior College contact: Fred Peters, director of marketing and public affairs, 903-510-2627 or fpet@tjc.edu.

###mcl

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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call 512-463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.