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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Contact: Alyssa Kitten, 806.723.8223

## **Area School Districts to Receive Funding Support for Career and Technical Education Programs**

**(LUBBOCK)** – Today, the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA), Workforce Solutions South Plains and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) announced their plans to leverage funds and grant six area school districts a total of \$158,000 to assist in enhancing and maximizing the capacity of various Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. This effort is known as the South Plains High Demand Job Training Project.

“Through this collaboration, we are able to prepare students for future success by providing them training and opportunities in high-demand occupations,” TWC Chairman Andres Alcantar said. “These partnerships benefit not only the students, but also the community and local employers - everybody wins.”

The South Plains High Demand Job Training Project will facilitate occupational training at the secondary level during the 2015/16 school year to prepare high school seniors for high demand occupations. Training will take place at six school districts located in the South Plains region and is anticipated to educate a total of 190 seniors to prepare them for employment in the high-demand occupations of welder, nursing assistant, machinist and general maintenance and repair technician. Listed below are the school districts and their programs that will be funded:

- Idalou ISD – Small Engine/Construction
- Lorenzo ISD – Auto CAD
- Lubbock Cooper ISD – Welding
- Lubbock ISD – Health Sciences
- Roosevelt ISD – Welding
- Slaton ISD – Welding

Funds will be used to cover the costs of accrediting new programs and increase capacity to enable the schools to train an increased number of students now and in years to come.

“LEDA is very appreciative for the opportunity to partner with the Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions South Plains and area school districts on this project,” John Osborne, president and CEO of LEDA, said. “Our future is in our workforce, and we’re excited to be part of an initiative to further educate Lubbock’s and the surrounding area’s students for these high-demand occupations.”

Participants successfully completing the training will earn industry-recognized credentials in high-demand occupations as well as college credit upon high school graduation.

“Workforce Solutions South Plains is excited to enter into a new level of partnership with the Lubbock Economic Development Alliance to further the evolution of career and technology training in our secondary schools,” Martin Aguirre, CEO of Workforce Solutions South Plains, said. “By expanding our historical partnership, we are now addressing the future workforce of our area and preparing our students for next generation jobs. We are pleased to be the local partner for the Texas Workforce Commission as we join in the mission of improving the Texas Workforce System for the betterment of the community.”

**About LEDA**

Since its inception in 2004, LEDA has assisted 137 companies with their expansion or relocation to Lubbock. These companies committed to creating 6,265 jobs and investing more than \$503 million in new capital improvements that have resulted in more than \$7.7 billion in cumulative economic impact to the Lubbock area.

**About TWC**

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).

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