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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 for the second time and grant seven area school districts a total of \$165,000 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.

“We are able to prepare students for future success by providing them unique education opportunities in high-demand occupations through this collaboration,” Andres Alcantar, TWC Chairman, said. “We are proud to partner with Workforce Solutions South Plains and other stakeholders in this unique partnership that will benefit our students.”

The South Plains High Demand Job Training Project will facilitate occupational training at the secondary level during the 2015/16 and 2016/17 school year to prepare high school students for high demand occupations. Training will take place at seven school districts located in the South Plains region and is anticipated to educate a total of 228 students, preparing them for employment in the high-demand occupations of automotive technician, computer programmer, food service manager, welder, nursing assistant, machinist and general maintenance and repair technician. Listed below are the school districts and the programs that will be funded:

- Frenship ISD – Automotive Technology
- Idalou ISD – Small Engine Repair and Construction Trades
- Lubbock ISD – Precision Metal Working
- Lubbock Cooper ISD – Computer Programming/Robotics
- Ralls ISD – Welding
- Slaton ISD – Culinary Arts
- Shallowater ISD – Automotive Technology and Health Sciences

Funds will be used to cover the costs of accrediting new programs and increasing 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 once again 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 upon high school graduation.

"Workforce Solutions South Plains is excited to continue our collaboration with LEDA and area school districts to enhance career and technology education in our secondary schools," Martin Aguirre, CEO of Workforce Solutions South Plains, said. "By expanding our historical partnership, we are addressing the needs of employers for qualified workers 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 140 companies with their expansion or relocation to Lubbock. These companies committed to creating 6,283 jobs and investing more than \$530 million in new capital improvements that have resulted in more than \$7.7 billion in cumulative economic impact to the Lubbock area.

About Workforce Solutions South Plains

Workforce Solutions South Plains is the Regional Workforce Development Board serving the 15-county South Plains Region. The mission of the workforce system is to meet the needs of the region's employers for a highly skilled workforce by educating and preparing workers. For more information, visit www.spworkforce.org.

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.

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