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PRESS RELEASE

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(Lubbock) - Workforce Solutions South Plains held a press conference Thursday to announce their nomination of a Lubbock organization has won a prestigious national award. Workforce Solutions South Plains revealed their business partner, Lubbock Economic Development Alliance (LEDA), will be presented with the National Association of Workforce Boards' (NAWB) W.O. Lawton Business Leadership award—the only one to be presented this year to any company in the nation.

The coveted award honors the outstanding business in the nation for their contribution to developing the skilled workers required by employers and programs that offer its citizens the opportunity for self-sufficiency and career growth.

Martin Aguirre, CEO for Workforce Solutions South Plains said, "Our partnerships, such as the one we have with LEDA, allow us to most effectively fill the region's workforce needs. For example, as our global market requires more science, technology, engineering and mathematic, or STEM-related skills, we have worked in conjunction with LEDA to develop initiatives to improve training in our area. Most recently, it was out of this partnership, along with others, we were able to bring the South Plains Center for Productivity and Innovation (SPCPI) to Lubbock to train incumbent workers to raise their skill levels in order for our community to effectively compete."

Other business, community and economic boosts to the Lubbock economy performed by LEDA were noted as reasons for their nomination and award. They included, the Skill Development Fund grant for South Plains College in partnership with X-FAB, Texas; partnership with the Byron Martin Technology center; building career pathways with educational institutions; the Nurse Education grant of \$2.9 million; providing legislative solutions to integration of educational issues with SB1620; and many more.

John Osborne, CEO for LEDA said, "It's a great honor to receive the W.O. Lawton Business Leadership Award from the National Association of Workforce Boards. Without the collaborative efforts of our partners to achieve a highly skilled workforce, we would not be receiving this prestigious award."

The two groups will be presented with the award March 11, 2013 at NAWB's annual convention in Washington, D.C.

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