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*In Partnership with North Central Texas
Council of Governments*

Press Release

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WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS FOR NORTH CENTRAL TEXAS, WEATHERFORD COLLEGE, PECO/FACET WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE AWARD

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas, in partnership with Weatherford College and PECO/Facet, was awarded the Workforce Excellence Award at the 2014 Texas Economic Development Council's Mid-Year Conference held in San Antonio, Texas. The Workforce Excellence Award recognizes exceptional contributions by a Texas community that has implemented successful workforce initiatives.

Weatherford College partnered with PECO/Facet in Mineral Wells to create a training project that would expand skills for PECO/Facet employees and build a pipeline of skilled workers for local business and industry. The customized training project provided training in welding, computer aided drafting, lean manufacturing, safety, facilities maintenance, freight broker, computers and professional development. The innovative training process utilized a multi-faceted approach to training, including on-line training as well as on-site and off-site training. Teachers included local high school teachers, manufacturing experts and proprietary training.

Weatherford College utilized a workable training model that worked around production schedules and provided classes using scheduling charts to plan hours of training. The charts were used to calculate time off for production lines in advance so that the impact to productivity was minimized. The use of state of the art virtual training tools such as the Virtek 360 virtual reality trainer offered a variety of real life training scenarios while limiting the cost of consumables and training.

Workforce Solutions for North Central Texas assisted with the development of the project, providing measureable data, employment assistance and continuous support throughout this project. The project trained almost 300 employees including 51 new hires and 20,922 training hours were completed.

As a result of the project PECO/Facet increased production, improved safety and expanded their facilities. Project Engineers trained and improved engineering capacity and developed skills in 3D modeling. PECO received three Chambers of Commerce awards for their innovation and leadership.

Weatherford College is now partnering with local high schools for dual technical certifications, sharing equipment and building pathways for students to seamlessly complete training to enter the local workforce.

Collin County • Denton County • Ellis County • Erath County • Hood County • Hunt County • Johnson County
Kaufman County • Navarro County • Palo Pinto County • Parker County • Rockwall County • Somervell County • Wise County

The Texas Workforce Commission in partnership with 28 local workforce development boards forms Texas Workforce Solutions



TEDC Chairman Rusty Brockman; Julie Lundy, Weatherford College; Kent Anderson, North Central Texas Workforce Solutions; Aaron Demerson, Texas Workforce Commission