



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE:** January 4, 2012

**MEDIA CONTACT:** Lacey Douglas

**PHONE:** (817) 413.4489

## **Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County recognizes partners at Joint Board and Awards Meeting**

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County held its Annual Joint Workforce Governing and Workforce Development Board and Awards Meeting December 14, 2011 at the Fort Worth Botanic Gardens. At this meeting the members of the Workforce Development Board (WDB) along with the audience heard the latest information impacting the county from our elected officials, including the Mayors of Arlington, Fort Worth and the County Judge. This is by far the most attended meeting of the year for Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County with many guests in the audience. We were also excited to have the 4 year old Pre-K class from the downtown YWCA back for a second year to sing and entertain the audience. They were of course a hard act to follow!

Representatives from the Department of Labor (DOL), Health and Human Services (HHS) and The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) were also on hand for a few special check presentations:

- The first check presentation was made to the board on behalf of DOL, HHS and TWC for the recent grant money we have been awarded this year. The total for the new grants is \$13,044,599.00, which includes funds for subcontractors and client services. Several of these grants are over multiple years. This grant awarded money is going to really help Keep Tarrant County Funded which leads to Keeping Tarrant County Working!
- The second check presentation was made by TWC Commissioner Andres Alcantar, Commissioner Representing the Public for the Texas Workforce Commission. Commissioner Alcantar was there on behalf of TWC to present to the board the Check for \$25,000 that was awarded at the recent annual TWC Conference. Workforce Solutions was awarded the check as the Service to Community Award Winner, for organizing the Fatherhood Coalition of Tarrant County to highlight the important role of fathers in the positive development and well-being of children.
- The third check presentation was made by DOL to Cornerstone Assistance Network. Cornerstone recently received a grant in the amount of 1.2 million for the Reintegration of Ex-Offenders (REXO) program. Workforce Solutions is proud to partner with Cornerstone on this important initiative.

This meeting is also a venue to thank some of the individuals and organizations that have helped make 2011 a banner year! The list of awards and winners included:

- **Tarrant County's Employer Award of Excellence** - **Benchmark Hospitality International**
- **UnSung Hero Award State and Local** - **Judy West, TWC (State) and Gracie Vega, Gaylord Texan Resort (Local)**
- **Keeping Tarrant County Working Award** - **ArlingtonAnswers.com** also recognized was: The Gaylord Texan Job Fair, Alliance Opportunity Job Fair, Cinco de Mayo Job Fair and Workforce Centers job fairs.
- **Keeping Tarrant County Youth Connected Award** - **Career Technology Education (CTE) Directors' Advisory Committee**
- **Keeping Tarrant County Cared For Award** - **Child Care Associates**
- **Keeping Tarrant County Partnering Award** - **The eSkills Job Center and Library/City of Fort Worth**. A few additional partnerships we recognized at the meeting included: The Arlington Chamber of Commerce for their work on the Governor's Small Business Forum and The Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce for their work on the Distinguished Employers of Fort Worth Teens.
- **2011 Vandergriff Leadership Award** - **Regional Workforce Leadership Council (RWLC)** which is made up of Dallas and North Central Texas Workforce Boards as well as the Arlington, Dallas and Fort Worth Chambers of Commerce.

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**Workforce Solutions for Tarrant is committed to Keeping Tarrant County Working!**

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County is Tarrant County's local workforce board and provides services to jobseekers and employers. A 29 member Board made up of business and community leaders chaired by Buddy Puente with Southwest Office Systems, Inc. works in partnership with the Workforce Governing Board (WGB), which is composed of Fort Worth Mayor Betsy Price, Arlington Mayor Robert Cluck and Tarrant County Judge Glen Whitley, to oversee Workforce services in Tarrant County. More information about the 6 centers we have throughout Tarrant County can be found at our website:

[www.workforcesolutions.net](http://www.workforcesolutions.net)

Workforce Solutions for Tarrant County, a proud partner of Texas Workforce Solutions

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