

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workforce Solutions Recognizes Partnership with Cisco College, Development Corporation of Abilene and Abilene ISD for Innovative Dual Credit Training Program

Abilene, Texas— On December 20th at the regularly scheduled Workforce Solutions Board meeting, held at 500 Chestnut, Suite 1200, the Workforce Board recognized the partnership of Cisco College, Development Corporation of Abilene and Abilene ISD for their training initiative and local commitment to provide a skilled workforce.

The Board partnered with Abilene ISD, Cisco College, Development Corporation of Abilene (DCOA) and local employers to create new dual-credit career and technical education (CTE) courses for high school students that included training on current industry-standard equipment and an opportunity for internships. The Board was able to bring together a collaborative that resulted in shared costs and shared benefits among the partners. Abilene ISD benefitted by having dual-credit CTE course offerings that prepared students for employment in the community. Cisco College benefitted from new, industry-standard equipment to use for training of secondary and post-secondary students. The DCOA is able to recruit and retain employers by providing a pipeline of skilled workers to meet local employer demand. Employers benefit from having local students trained to meet their workforce needs who can more quickly fill job openings and are more likely to remain in the area.

Over the period of September 2015 through December 2016, a total of 110 high school students participated in dual-credit CTE courses in electrical, heating and air conditioning, or welding. All students who completed one or more courses obtained a minimum of one industry-recognized certification. Overall, 70 students participated in at least two semesters of training.

Specific focus areas of the training included: hydraulics and pneumatics technology, industrial process control, electric trades, HVAC technologies, and welding. Students were able to obtain training and certifications identified by local employers at no cost to the student or the employer due to financial and in-kind support from the DCOA, Cisco College, Abilene ISD and Workforce Solutions. Employers were able to visit with students during training to provide information about locally-available job opportunities.

Questions regarding this event may be directed to Steve Collins, Business Resource Consultant, for the West Central Texas Workforce Board, at 325-795-4304 or by e-mail to steve.collins@workforcesystem.org.

The Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board is one of 28 boards in the state charged with oversight and policy-making responsibility for workforce and training programs in a nineteen county region. Additional information on the Board's economic development efforts or services for business customers may be obtained by calling the Workforce Board at (325) 795-4200 or by visiting the website at www.workforcesystem.org. Equal Opportunity Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay Svc: 711