

Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board
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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board to Host Area Employers & Educators for Externship Meet & Greet

Abilene, Texas — The Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board will host an Orientation and Meet & Greet Social for participants of the WE-Connect Summer Externship Program on Thursday, May 16, 2019 at the Abilene ISD Administration Building. Externships are hands-on, immersive experiences connecting educators directly with industry to gain knowledge of the skills employers want to see from students entering the workforce. The Summer 2019 program features over 20 participating business host sites around the West Central Texas region including: Abilene Industrial Foundation, Arrow Ford, ATMOS Energy, Big Country Electric Cooperative, Black Plumbing, BWJ Metalworks, Big Country CASA, City of Abilene (multiple departments), City of Snyder, DATROO Technologies, Day Nursery of Abilene, Development Corporation of Snyder, Eagle Aviation Services, Eide Bailly, GE Renewable Energy, Hendrick Health System, International Rescue Committee, Ludlum Measurements, RAM, Inc., R.E. Dye Manufacturing, Rentech Boiler Systems, Snyder Chamber of Commerce, Star Dodge Chrysler Jeep Ram Hyundai, and United States Gypsum Company.

Nearly 50 educators from 17 school districts in Abilene and surrounding communities will receive real-time workplace exposure to the knowledge and abilities needed to be successful in a variety of area industries. The Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board has contributed \$25,000 in award money for all participating educators to receive a \$500 stipend upon successful completion of externship requirements. “This program is a great opportunity to strengthen partnerships between education and business,” said Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board Chair Samuel Garcia, “by providing educators an understanding of business needs and operations through hands-on experiences with local businesses.”

Media representatives are encouraged to attend the Employer/Educator Meet & Greet Social at 5:00pm in the Jefferson Room of the AISD Administration Building located at 241 Pine Street in Abilene. Representatives from at least 16 participating businesses are slated to attend along with community, workforce, and education leaders. Attendees will be available for interviews. For more information or media requests, contact Lindsey Phillips, Career Consultant, (325) 795-4327 or Lindsey.Phillips@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

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