

Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

DATE: December 21, 2023

CONTACT: Alyssa Goodgame

PHONE: (325) 795-4211

Workforce Solutions helps students from Clyde and Baird explore careers through job shadowing at area employers

Abilene, Texas — The Work-Based Learning Program at Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas brings together different educational and training opportunities for students at participating schools to explore and gain experience in high-demand career fields. This fall, students from Clyde and Baird job shadowed with area employers in healthcare and manufacturing to get a taste of what happens in the workplace. Many also participated in a formal interview process to gain skills and pursue possible internship placements for spring 2024.

“I’m very interested in both nursing and physical therapy,” said Clyde High School Junior Larissa Hodnett. “So, I’m excited to see both and try to decide what I want to do.” Employer partners in the program host students for industry tours, job shadowing and potentially internships that give students the opportunity to work for pay or credit towards high school graduation. “I think the benefit of it, is that [job shadowing] helps show you what you will be walking into,” said Baird High School Junior Simon Aguirre. “Or what the field might actually be like, versus what a high school or a junior high class shows you.”

Work-based learning is not only a benefit to students, but to employers as well. Through these partnerships, employers have improved talent pipelines, and more engaged and productive workforces. Ruben Garcia with BWJ Metalworks said, “We enjoy it very much. Our owner likes it. He’s the one who actually kind of said, hey, let’s get something going, some type of program we can do that can help the kids and also help not just us, but all the manufacturing companies in this area. It’s been good so far. We hired two of the kids on our first go around.”

The Work-Based Learning Program this fall successfully served 220 students across six schools and 10 employers. For more information on the program and how to participate, please visit www.wfswct.org/wbl.

The Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas Board is charged with oversight and policy-making responsibility for local workforce and training programs. We are committed to strengthening the economic vitality of our 19-county region by investing in the success of residents and businesses. Our assistance and expertise are provided to both the job seeker and the employer. Visit our website at www.wfswct.org. Equal Opportunity Employer/Program. Auxiliary aids and services are available, upon request, to individuals with disabilities. Relay: 1-800-735-2989 (TTY) / 711 (voice). Programs/services are funded 92.5% with federal funds and 7.5% with non-federal funds.

####