A Snapshot of Regional Skills Development

Institutions across Dallas-Fort Worth are ready to work with companies to support their growing talent needs. Skills development, apprenticeships, and access to other training programs for developing highly-skilled and productive employees are provided through area community colleges, workforce boards, and other non-profit and quasi-governmental organizations. Wherever a company locates within the region, they will find the resources they need to grow.

Skills Development Fund

This successful state grant program offers businesses, consortia of businesses, or trade unions an opportunity to identify a training need and then partner with a public community or technical college to fulfill it. Businesses work with college partners to submit proposals, develop curricula, and conduct training. The Skills Development Fund pays for the training, the college administers the grant, and businesses create new jobs and improve the skills of their current workers.

www.skills.texasworkforce.org

Examples:

A transportation and warehousing, and manufacturing consortium, including FFE Transportation Services, KLIM Transport Services, Lone Star Aerospace, Syncreon America, and WNA Cups Illustrated, partnered with DCCCD Cedar Valley College to provide job training using a $1,282,202 Skills Development Fund grant in 2018.

This grant was used to provide custom training to 859 new and incumbent workers for industry-related topics with focused instruction on transportation & warehousing and manufacturing. Trainees included corporate safety engineers, drivers and help desk technicians.

Thomson Reuters partnered with DCCCD Brodhaven College to provide job training using a $445,400 Skills Development Fund grant in 2018.

This grant was used to provide custom training to 245 new and incumbent workers in the IT industry. The newly developed curriculum also benefited other IT businesses in the area, as well as other colleges. Trainees included administrative assistants, website developers, business operations analysts and project managers.

Community Colleges

Area community colleges can work with companies of all sizes to customize training programs and curriculum to meet their workforce needs. The Dallas County Community College District (DCCCD) includes seven independently accredited colleges — Brookhaven, Cedar Valley, El Centro, Mountain View, North Lake and Richland. Since 1965, DCCCD has served over three million people, making it one of the largest community college systems in Texas. Tarrant County College (TCC) has six campuses and approximately one in every 22 Tarrant County residents takes a TCC class each year. Collin College attracts over 55,000 students annually to its 100-plus degree programs and certificates across 10 campuses. North Central Texas College (NCTC) is the state’s oldest continuously operating two-year college and operates five campuses. Texas State Technical College (TSTC) is a statewide college system with 10 campuses throughout the state.

Dallas County Community College District (and every community college and technical school in Texas) are partnering with Amazon Web Services (AWS), beginning spring 2020, to offer an associate of applied science degree in cloud computing. Students will be introduced to cloud computing technologies such as gaming, artificial intelligence and medical applications.

In January 2018, Google started an IT support professional certificate program at DCCCD to prepare students and workers for entry-level roles in information technology support in six months without prior training. The program features five modules designed to teach the key areas of knowledge needed for entry-level IT positions, including technology support and computer networking.

Collin College is slated to open its $179 million, 340,000 square-foot Technical Campus in fall 2020. That facility will serve more than 4,000 students and will offer degrees and certificates ranging from architecture and construction to engineering technology and manufacturing.

Tarrant County College (TCC) Corporate Solutions & Economic Development, a division of TCC that provides customized training to businesses across the region, helped Dannon Yogurt upgrade workers’ skills. Professional instructors use industry-standard curricula or work with company representatives to develop unique training in areas such as computer skills, management and leadership, language, safety and industry-specific technical training.

“Every aspect of the training was tailored for our specific needs. With this training, we have been able to grow capabilities of our operators and mechanics, allowing them to better run the equipment,” said Marlin Prew, maintenance manager for the Dannon Company.

Tarrant County voters passed an $825 million bond proposal to improve, renovate and enhance workforce technology across the six Tarrant County College (TCC) campuses.

The Texas State Technical College in North Texas is a 100,000 square foot campus that houses many advanced workforce programs and state-of-the-art labs. Programs include:

- Computer Aided Drafting & Design Technology
- Computer Networking & Systems Administration
- Cybersecurity
- Diesel Equipment Technology
- Electrical Power & Controls
- HVAC Technology
- Industrial Systems-Electrical Specialization
- Precision Machining Technology
- Welding