



WORKFORCESolutions
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Bringing opportunity and people together

FOR RELEASE: January 26, 2012
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Employers in the South Plains area may have an easier time finding work-ready youth to hire because of a skills assessment initiative being offered by Workforce Solutions South Plains through a grant from the Texas Workforce Commission.

Workforce Solutions South Plains received funding through September 2012, to offer more than 1,500 high school juniors, seniors and out-of-school youth an opportunity to earn a National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC). The skills assessment process was developed by the internationally recognized assessment organization, American College Testing (ACT).

The initiative involves assessing youths' work-readiness skills by compiling scores from testing in the areas of applied math, reading, and the ability to locate and interpret information presented in a variety of communication formats, such as graphs and other charts. Such testing normally costs \$22 per person; however, all testing expenses are covered under the TWC grant. Workforce Solutions South Plains is seeking employers interested in taking advantage of the benefits being offered by the program by recognizing the NCRC as a valuable credential during the interview, hiring and/or promotion processes.

Assessment testing for the certificate is being coordinated through schools, organizations and on an individual basis at the Workforce Solutions Career Center. Individuals will be awarded a bronze, silver, gold or platinum NCRC, based on the assessed levels of work-ready skills. The certification provides employers with an invaluable tool for screening and selection- processes, saving time and expense in finding highly-trainable, high-quality job candidates who are the right fit for the job. Employers, nationwide, who utilize the certificates in their hiring process report significant reductions in employee turnover.

Some of the Lubbock area employers who have already committed to recognizing the NCRCs are, United Supermarkets, Covenant Health System, ARMtech Insurance Services, Lubbock Regional MHMR, Spirit Ranch and Victor Mosqueda Photography, as well as the South Plains Community Action Association of Levelland.

Employers interested in participating in this nationally recognized certificate program should contact David Vasquez, Director of Business Talent Development, Workforce Solutions South Plains, (806) 252-0067, or david.vasquez@spworkforce.org.

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**For more information about workforce related issues,
contact Workforce Solutions South Plains Board Administration at (806) 744-1987.**

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