

Business Solutions

7TH ANNUAL GALA RECOGNIZES EMPLOYERS OF EXCELLENCE

WorkForce South Plains hosted its signature 7th Annual Gala and Employer Awards ceremony on April 9th at the Lubbock Memorial Civic Center in Lubbock. The event, attended by over three-hundred and fifty business and community leaders from the South Plains region, was originally designed in 2002 to recognize exemplary workplace practices and innovative strategies implemented by local employers. Nine categories were awarded. Each year, WorkForce's Employer of the Year award recipient is recognized by the Texas Workforce Commission during the TWC annual statewide workforce conference. This year's conference, held in San Antonio in December, will recognize the Levelland Hockley County Ethanol LLC initiative as the region's Employer of Excellence.

The event keynote address was provided by Texas State Representative Joe Heflin.

"This area maintains one of the lowest unemployment rates in Texas, with the Lubbock MSA currently noted as third lowest in the state," said Representative Heflin. "This success may be attributed in part to the efforts of WorkForce and our area economic development agencies who work tirelessly to provide good jobs for South Plains residents. I am pleased to have been in a position to work with WorkForce for the past five years to ensure a skilled labor pool is available for the region's employers."

The Director of Workforce Development for the Texas Workforce Commission in Austin, Larry Jones, made a special guest appearance. Entertainment was provided by Lubbock Estacado High School Show Choir, Lubbock City Councilmember Floyd Price performed the National Anthem and then Lubbock Mayor David Miller presented a proclamation identifying April 9th as 'City of Lubbock WorkForce Solutions Day'.

The nine award recipients were:

Exemplary Youth Award
Exemplary Child Care Provider Award
Exemplary Volunteer of the Year Award
Service to Workers Award
Service to Community Award
Future Workforce Award
Current Workforce Award
Industry Sector Outreach Award
Employer of the Year Award

*Christopher Lawton Parrish
Covenant Child Care Center
James Belk
UMC Health System
Lubbock Economic Development Alliance
Medical Capital Recovery
Covenant Health System
South Plains Manufacturing Skills Standards Council
Levelland Hockley County Ethanol LLC*

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