

# TRAINING SOLUTIONS

## NEW BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT PROEJECT IN HOCKLEY COUNTY RECEIVES \$50,000 (continued)

Originally funded by the Governor's Wagner-Peyser Grant Program, the WesTex Allied project has achieved impressive results including the creation and/or expansion of over twenty businesses in rural South Plains. Other significant economic gains include the creation of over forty new jobs and ten retained jobs. The funds will be used to expand the WesTex Allied Communities project into all of Hockley County.

Bret Mills, Chairperson of WesTex Allied Communities, said the Sirolli Method of Enterprise Facilitation assists communities in creating an environment that nurtures the creation and expansion of successful enterprises by local residents. The Enterprise Facilitation model is increasingly recognized in Texas and across the United States as an alternative to traditional top-down economic development strategies. The primary goal: to educate and recruit individuals with the passion and skill to become successful entrepreneurs.

*"The indigenous growth which the model seeks to create is vital to the economic success of our rural communities. Having witnessed the success of the WesTex project, community leaders in Hockley County partnered with WesTex Allied Communities to make the project's resources available to Hockley County residents," Mr. Mills said.*

Focused on Hockley County business development through the provision of technical assistance to existing and/or prospective rural entrepreneurs, the primary type of technical assistance offered is management coaching. Residents of the Cities of Anton, Levelland, Opdyke West, Ropesville, Smyer, Sundown and Whiteface all have local access to these and other business counseling and planning services as a result of this grant award which expires in January of 2009. By the end of the one year grant period, it is anticipated that at least one-hundred potential entrepreneurs will be outreached, fifteen participating clients will have entered the project, at least three business start-ups or expansions will have occurred resulting in no less than four new job creations in the area.

For more information on accessing the services provided by WesTex Allied Communities, call 806.789.9651.



*WorkForce Solutions CEO Martin Aguirre presents a \$50,000 check to the Hockley County Enterprise Facilitation Project to fund a rural entrepreneurship project in Hockley County.*