

Texas Workforce Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Bill J. Priest Institute Partners with a Four-Member Businesses Consortium for a \$471,250 Job-Training Grant from TWC

AUSTIN — The Dallas-area workforce will benefit from a \$471,250 job-training grant from the Texas Workforce Commission's (TWC) Self-Sufficiency Fund, which helps individuals transition from public assistance back into the workforce.

Bill J. Priest Institute has partnered with a four-member business consortium for the grant, which will be used to custom-train workers to fill 125 new jobs as home loan consultants, loan processors and information technology specialists. Workers will receive an average hourly wage of \$15.85 upon completion of training. The business consortium includes Countywide Home Loans, Texas Association of Mortgage, E Quality Corp. and Quanta Consulting Inc.

"Self-Sufficiency Fund Grants offer a real-life solution to those trying to support their families while transitioning from public assistance back into the workforce," said Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson. "I commend the participation of these local businesses in partnering with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Bill J. Priest Institute to create jobs."

"This grant provides the much needed training and jobs to those who can most benefit, while also providing employers with a skilled labor force." said TWC Commissioner Representing Employers Ron Lehman. "Thanks to the governor and the Legislature, TWC makes these grants available each year, assisting thousands of Texans to improve their quality of life."

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2004, TWC awarded 12 Self-Sufficiency Fund grants, which funded more than 4,545 jobs. The jobs paid an average hourly wage of \$7.88. The grants, which totaled \$5,402,486, benefited 58 Texas employers. The Legislature appropriated \$2.9 million to the Self-Sufficiency Fund for each year of the FY 2004-05 biennium.

Employers seeking more information about the Self-Sufficiency Fund may visit the TWC Web site at www.texasworkforce.org.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the services it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.

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