



# WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

## SOUTHEAST TEXAS

A proud partner of the American  JobCenter® network

# 2025

# ANNUAL REPORT

## GUIDED BY CHANGE, GROUNDED IN PURPOSE



# LETTER FROM THE BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

As we reflect on 2025, we do so under a theme that captures both the moments we experienced and the values that sustained us: Guided by Change, Grounded in Purpose. This past year marked a period of meaningful transition for Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas (WSSET), including the appointment of a new Executive Director, the addition of a new Deputy Director, the introduction of new Board members, and the onboarding of a new workforce contractor. These changes required adaptability, trust, and a steady commitment to the mission that has long guided our work: to build a world-class competitive workforce for Southeast Texas.



**ROXANNE ACOSTA-HELLBERG**  
BOARD CHAIR

While leadership and structure evolved, our purpose did not. Throughout 2025, our Board, staff, contractor staff, and partners remained focused on expanding access to opportunity, supporting employers, and strengthening the workforce system that drives Southeast Texas forward. In times of transition, our mission served as our anchor by ensuring continuity, accountability, and a clear direction for the future.

This year’s accomplishments reflect that steady focus. WSSET hosted the 2025 Youth Career Expo, engaging with 3,365 students and nearly 140 exhibitors from across the region. The event provided thousands of young people with direct exposure to high-demand industries, career pathways, and local employers, reinforcing our commitment to early career awareness and long-term talent development. Our Education Outreach program also continued to expand its impact, connecting students, educators, and parents with workforce information and career planning resources that support informed decision-making beyond the classroom.

Community engagement remained a cornerstone of our work in 2025. We saw increased participation and community support through job fairs and hiring events that connected job seekers with meaningful employment opportunities. In addition, staff provided continued guidance to employers and partners navigating Job Education and Training (JET) grant opportunities, helping align training investments with regional workforce needs. These efforts strengthened relationships across the community and ensured that WSSET remained responsive, accessible, and employer driven.



**MELANIE WILLIAMS**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Through 2025, we saw the continued expansion of liquefied natural gas (LNG) plants and related infrastructure projects across Southeast Texas. Ongoing construction, maintenance, and long-term operations associated with these projects reinforced the region’s role as a national energy leader while creating sustained demand for skilled labor across construction, manufacturing, transportation, and technical occupations. WSSET continued working alongside industry partners, training providers, and community stakeholders to ensure local workers are prepared to access these high-wage, high-skill career opportunities. These developments underscore the importance of aligning workforce strategies with regional economic growth and further affirm our commitment to building a resilient talent pipeline that supports both industry expansion and long-term economic stability.

We also took pride in celebrating the success of our employer partners. Mason Construction was recognized as a finalist for the 2025 Small Employer of the Year at the 28th Annual Texas Workforce Conference hosted by the Texas Workforce Commission. This recognition underscores the importance of strong partnerships and highlights the role employers play in advancing workforce excellence across the state.

The achievements outlined in this report are the result of dedicated staff, engaged partners, and a Board committed to thoughtful leadership during a year of change. As we look ahead, we do so with confidence and are guided by lessons learned, strengthened by collaboration, and grounded firmly in our purpose. WSSET remains well-positioned to meet the evolving needs of our region and to continue building pathways to opportunity for job seekers and employers alike.





# WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS SOUTHEAST TEXAS

Our goals drive us to provide ongoing opportunities for individual self-sufficiency, to increase capacity for academic and skills training, and to strengthen partnerships with businesses and industry.

## OUR MISSION

*Equip Southeast Texas with the skills and knowledge that meet the needs of employers to foster the region's economic growth.*

## OUR VISION

*A world-class, competitive workforce for Southeast Texas.*

2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

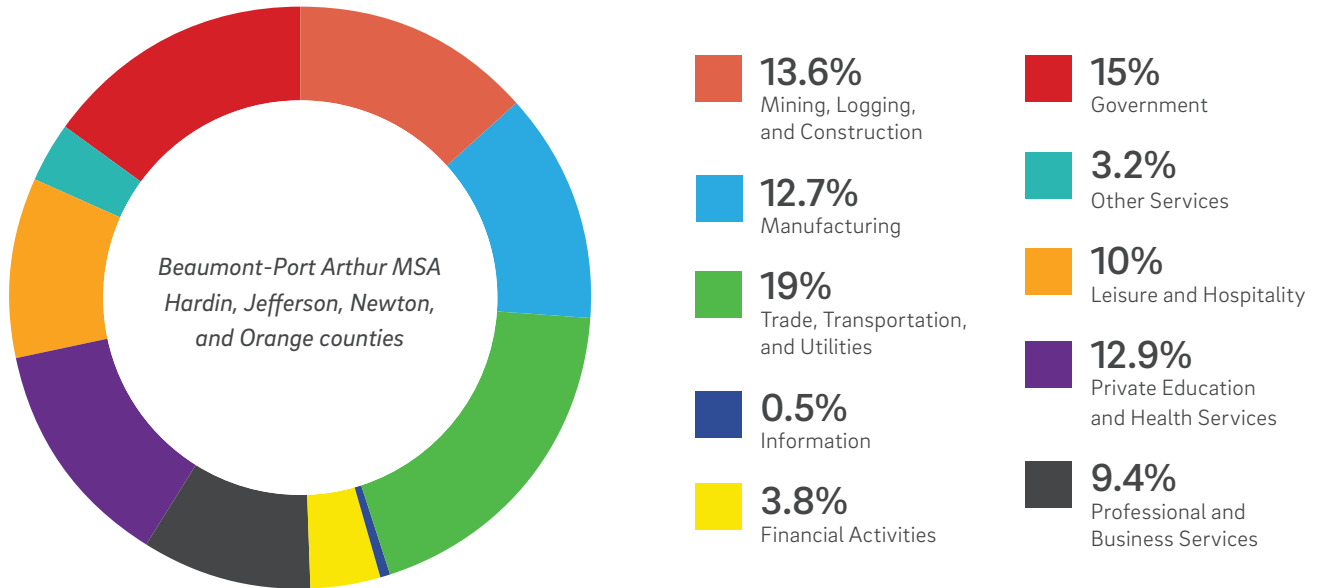
# UNEMPLOYMENT TRENDS

WDA – Workforce Development Area: Jefferson, Orange, and Hardin counties

WDA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	5.4	5.3	4.9	4.6	4.9	5.0	5.3	5.9	5.8	n/a	5.4	5.2
MSA	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
	5.4	5.3	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.1	5.0	5.1	5.2	n/a	5.4	5.2

2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

# INDUSTRY COMPOSITION<sup>1</sup>



2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

# LABOR MARKET INFORMATION<sup>2</sup>

BEAUMONT-PORT ARTHUR Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Area	Area Type	DECEMBER 2025				DECEMBER 2024			
		Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate	Labor Force	Employment	Unemployment	Rate
Texas	State	15,931,415	15,307,152	624,263	3.9	15,737,596	15,153,794	583,802	3.7
Beaumont-Port Arthur	MSA	187,107	177,353	9,754	5.2	185,386	175,990	9,396	5.1
Southeast Texas	WDA	187,107	177,353	9,754	5.2	185,386	175,990	9,396	5.1
Hardin	County	27,697	26,541	1,156	4.2	27,475	26,340	1,135	4.1
Jefferson	County	116,475	109,816	6,659	5.7	115,414	108,991	6,423	5.6
Orange	County	42,935	40,996	1,939	4.5	42,497	40,659	1,838	4.3
Beaumont	City	55,699	52,954	2,745	4.9	55,268	52,556	2,712	4.9
Port Arthur	City	22,957	20,996	1,961	8.5	22,694	20,838	1,856	8.2

Sources: <sup>1</sup>Industry by North America Industry Classification System (NAICS), Texas Workforce Commission Labor Market data as of December 2025.

<sup>2</sup>Texas Workforce Commission Labor Market Information

2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

BY THE NUMBERS



2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

FUNDING

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	\$4,071,772
Child Care Subsidy and Quality	\$24,078,347
Employment Services	\$531,223
Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)	\$1,834,603
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)	\$249,982
TANF Non-Custodial Parent	\$382,954
Apprenticeship Texas Expansion	\$260,000
Skills Development Fund	\$106,000
Vocational Rehabilitation Collaboration	\$564,577
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$32,079,458</b>

2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

## ENERGY TEXAS, INC

LARGE EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



WSSET has selected Entergy Texas, Inc. as the 2025 Large Employer of the Year. Entergy Texas advances workforce development through internships, scholarships, technical training, mentoring, and strong partnerships with local schools, colleges, and workforce boards to create industry-aligned career pathways.

The company collaborates closely with Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas, including participation in a Skills Development Fund grant providing customized training for nearly 200 employees in support of the Orange County Advanced Power Station project. Through its sustained investment in skill development and regional growth, Entergy Texas has earned this distinction.

2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

## PORT OF BEAUMONT

LOCAL EMPLOYER OF EXCELLENCE

WSSET has selected the Port of Beaumont as the 2025 Local Employer of Excellence. With a team of just 46 employees, the Port demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to workforce development in the region.

The Port actively supports inclusive and innovative career pathways as a sponsor of the Youth Career Expo, a supporter of Southeast Texas Women in Industry, and a sponsor of Sea Scout Ship 1916, providing hands-on maritime training and credentials for youth. By also posting opportunities on WorkInTexas.com and partnering closely with WSSET, the Port of Beaumont continues to strengthen the regional talent pipeline and exemplify local employer excellence.



2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

## INTEGRATED TECHNOLOGY & SECURITY LLC

VETERAN-FRIENDLY EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



WSSET is honored to recognize Integrated Technology and Security LLC (ITS) as the 2025 Veteran-Friendly Employer of the Year. As a veteran-owned and operated company, ITS demonstrates a deep commitment to hiring and supporting those who have served, with veterans making up 25% of its workforce. The company fosters a mission-driven culture where military values are respected and veterans are provided meaningful opportunities to grow and lead.

ITS further supports veteran success through housing assistance and partnerships with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Veterans Commission, helping connect veterans to careers that match their skills and experience. By intentionally honoring, mentoring, and empowering veteran employees, ITS sets the standard for veteran-friendly employment in Southeast Texas.

2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

## SSC SERVICES FOR EDUCATION

HIREABILITY EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR



WSSET is proud to announce SSC Services for Education as the 2025 HireAbility Employer of the Year. With more than five decades of experience in custodial services, SSC demonstrates an outstanding commitment to hiring, supporting, and advancing individuals with disabilities through inclusive recruitment strategies, adaptive training, accessible workplaces, and long-term career development opportunities.

SSC partners with state programs, advocacy organizations, and workforce agencies to remove employment barriers and expand opportunity. Participation in initiatives such as the 2024 HireAbility Reverse Job Fair and the Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) program resulted in a full-time hire in 2025, reflecting SSC's dedication to creating meaningful, sustainable career pathways. Through its intentional focus on accessibility and equity, SSC strengthens the regional workforce and exemplifies the power of inclusive employment.

2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

## MASON CONSTRUCTION

SMALL EMPLOYER OF THE YEAR

WSSET has selected Mason Construction as the 2025 Small Employer of the Year. Mason supports workforce development by posting opportunities on WorkInTexas.com, sponsoring the Youth Career Expo, and providing hands-on internships for students from Lamar University and Texas A&M University.

Through its Mason Ranger Training Program, on-site hybrid training center, and partnerships with organizations such as the Golden Triangle Empowerment Center and ABC Southeast Texas, Mason delivers innovative, industry-led training that creates clear pathways from entry-level roles to leadership. Its continued investment in skill-building, mentorship, and community outreach exemplifies the powerful impact a small employer can have on the regional workforce.



2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

# A MERRY GO ROUND

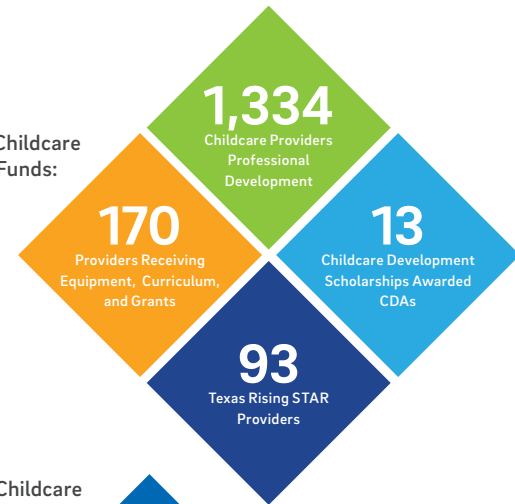
CHILDCARE PROVIDER OF THE YEAR

WSSET has selected A Merry Go Round as the 2025 Child Care Provider of the Year. Since opening in 2006 under the leadership of owner and director Jessica Walker, the center has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to quality early childhood education, maintaining a four-star Texas Rising Star certification for six consecutive years. With a dedicated team of 11 staff members, A Merry Go Round creates nurturing, safe, and educational environments where children feel supported and families remain actively engaged.

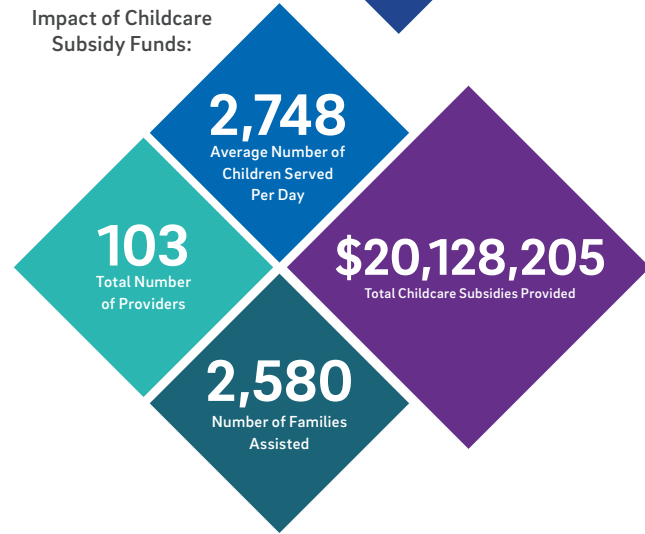
The center prioritizes continuous professional development, with multiple staff members earning Child Development Associate (CDA) credentials and more than 400 training hours completed in the past year alone. Through strong leadership, ongoing staff development, and a whole-child approach that supports cognitive, social, emotional, and physical growth, A Merry Go Round exemplifies excellence in early learning and is a deserving recipient of this recognition.



Impact of Childcare Quality Funds:



Impact of Childcare Subsidy Funds:

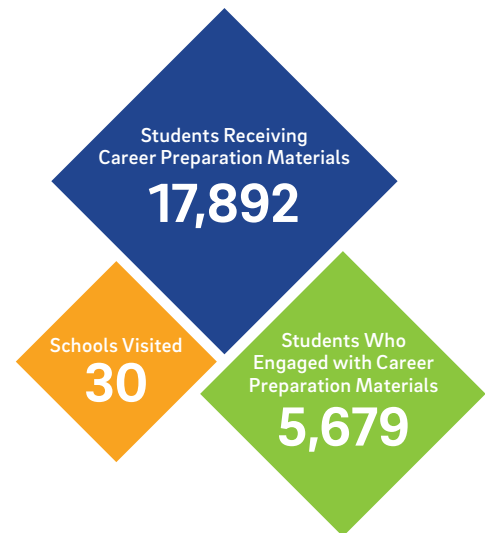


2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

# CAREER AND EDUCATION OUTREACH



Students Receiving Career Preparation Materials



The Career and Education Outreach program continued to broaden its impact across Southeast Texas in 2025, reinforcing partnerships with middle and high schools to promote workforce readiness and informed career exploration. The Career Coach facilitated workshops on resumes, interview skills, financial literacy, and career pathway awareness while incorporating virtual reality career exploration and regional labor market data to connect students with high-demand

occupations. Beyond direct student services, the program also strengthened district capacity by providing consultation and guidance for Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) grant applications, ensuring Career and Technical Education equipment requests aligned with documented workforce needs. Through strategic collaboration and innovative engagement, the program continues to support the region's future talent pipeline.

# 2025 TEACHER EXTERNSHIP PROGRAM SUMMARY

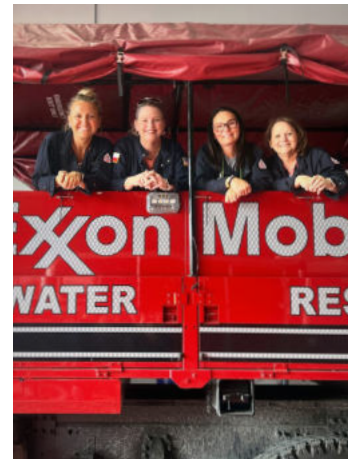
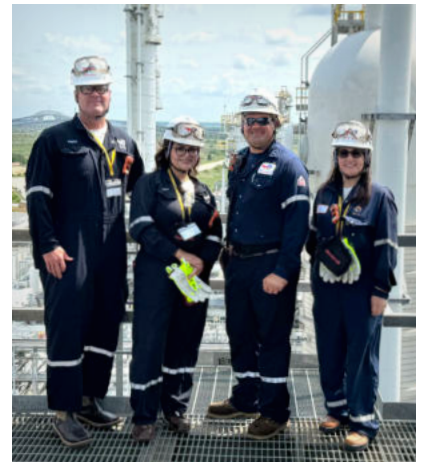
The 2025 Teacher Externship Program—a collaborative initiative between Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas and Region 5 Education Service Center—connected 70 educators from 14 school districts across Jefferson, Orange, and Hardin counties with 15 employer host sites. Held June 2–6, the program provided teachers with immersive, hands-on job-shadowing experiences across key regional industries, including petrochemical, healthcare, manufacturing, transportation, and skilled trades. Participants worked directly with employers to better understand in-demand careers, industry expectations, and career pathways, strengthening their ability to connect classroom learning to real-world workforce needs. Educators who successfully completed the program received a \$1,000 stipend in recognition of their participation and commitment. Supported by funding from the Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Mutual Insurance, the externship strengthened partnerships between education and industry, equipping educators with practical insights that enhance instruction and help prepare Southeast Texas students for high-demand careers.

## Employer Host Sites

- CHRISTUS Southeast Texas Health System
- Chevron Phillips Chemical
- Dow Chemical
- ExxonMobil
- Lamar Institute of Technology
- Lamar State College Orange
- Lamar State College Port Arthur
- Lamar University JoAnne Gay Dishman School of Nursing
- Motiva
- Port of Beaumont
- Port of Port Arthur
- Orange County Navigation and Port District
- Southeast Texas Building and Construction Trades Council
- TotalEnergies
- Valero Port Arthur Refinery

## School Districts

- Beaumont ISD
- Bridge City ISD
- Hardin-Jefferson ISD
- Little Cypress-Mauriceville CISD
- Lumberton ISD
- Nederland ISD
- Port Arthur ISD
- Port Neches-Groves ISD
- Silsbee ISD
- Vidor ISD
- West Hardin CISD
- West Orange-Cove CISD
- Diocese of Beaumont
- Tekoa Academy



# WORKFORCE AMBASSADORS



*Each year, we highlight some of the most memorable and successful individuals who have demonstrated commitment and dedication to become self-sufficient.*



**HAILEY WILLIAMS**

Hailey came to WSSET as a 21-year-old single mother seeking to strengthen her skills as a Medical Assistant and achieve greater financial stability for herself and her child. Determined to build a sustainable career in healthcare, she enrolled as a Workforce Innovation Opportunity Act (WIOA) Out-of-School Youth participant and immediately demonstrated focus and commitment to long-term success.

Through WIOA services, Hailey was enrolled in Medical Assistant training at Texas Health Tech in January 2025. She successfully completed the program in December 2025 and passed her

National Medical Assistant Exam in October 2025. She also gained valuable hands-on experience through a Paid Work Experience placement with SETX Guidance Center, strengthening her skills and confidence in a clinical setting.

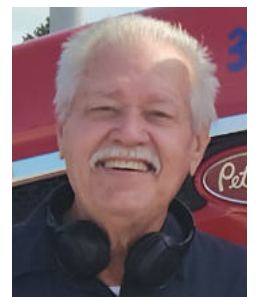
Motivated and persistent, Hailey applied her training and secured employment with Diagnostic Lung Center, beginning her new role on January 20, 2026. Her journey reflects resilience, dedication, and the impact of workforce programs in helping young parents gain industry-recognized credentials and transition into meaningful, unsubsidized employment.

In February 2024, Thomas came to WSSET to explore eligibility for CDL A training. Retired and relying on Social Security income with his wife, he sought a path back to self-sufficiency. With prior CDL experience, including a hazmat endorsement, Thomas believed returning to a CDL-based career offered the best opportunity for stable employment, despite concerns about financial barriers and his age.

Thomas faced significant challenges, including ineligibility for Pell Grants or other funding sources to cover training costs. Through WIOA

he was approved as a WIOA Adult participant and received career counseling, resume and interview assistance, and support to pursue CDL A training.

With WIOA funding, Thomas completed CDL A training at Lamar Orange State College, graduating in June 2024. Within two months, he secured employment, marking a successful return to the workforce and demonstrating how workforce programs can help individuals overcome financial and personal barriers to achieve self-sufficiency.



**THOMAS EDWARDS**

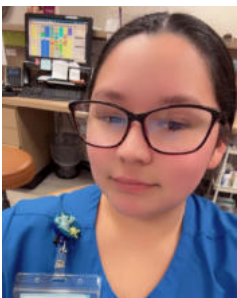


**CHRISTOPHER MARTIN**

Christopher Martin came to WSSET with a strong desire to build a stable and meaningful career. He enrolled in welding training, successfully completed the program, and earned his certification. However, despite his qualifications, limited and competitive local job opportunities made securing employment in the welding field difficult.

Shortly after completing his training, Christopher survived a serious incident that nearly claimed his life, prompting deep reflection and renewed determination. With continued support from Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas, he remained engaged in job fairs, career coaching, and job readiness services while staying open to employment opportunities outside his trained field.

Christopher's perseverance led him to a position with Church's Chicken after connecting with the employer at a job fair following its reopening in Port Arthur. Now employed as a cook, Christopher is grateful for the opportunity to work and move forward. His story reflects resilience, gratitude, and the impact of workforce support in helping individuals overcome life's challenges.



**ELIZABETH DELVALLE**

Elizabeth, a single mother, faced financial hardship while trying to provide for her child. Determined to create a better future, she set her sights on earning a Medical Assistant Certificate, despite the challenges of balancing school, work, and parenting. Motivated to achieve stability, she sought guidance from WSSET to pursue training and career advancement.

With support from Career Advisor Maxine and WIOA services, Elizabeth enrolled in the Medical Assistant program at Texas Health Tech in January 2025. She successfully completed her coursework and externship at Spine Tech, where she demonstrated professionalism, dedication, and strong clinical skills, leaving a lasting impression on the team.

Elizabeth's hard work paid off when Spine Tech offered her full-time employment on October 6, 2025, earning \$16 per hour. Through determination and WIOA-supported training, she achieved financial stability, gained meaningful employment in healthcare, and created a brighter, more secure future for herself and her child.

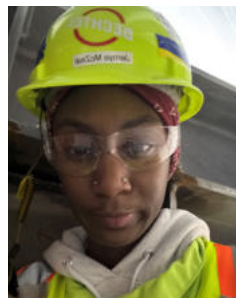


**MICHELLE ROGERS**

Michelle Rogers enrolled in The Choices Program in April 2025 while urgently seeking full-time employment after several months without work. Having previously used workforce services to secure long-term employment, she returned determined to support herself and her family. However, concerns about past job separation made her uncertain about how it was affecting her current job search.

Working closely with her Career Advisor, Michelle developed a personalized employment plan focused on rebuilding confidence and effectively addressing employment gaps. She participated in job readiness workshops and received resume assistance, helping her present her experience honestly and professionally while staying focused on her strengths and goals.

Through her continued engagement, Michelle secured a Paid Work Experience placement with the City of Vidor. After successfully completing eight weeks, the city offered her a temporary part-time position, citing her strong work ethic and positive attitude. Her story reflects resilience, growth, and how workforce support can help individuals reestablish themselves in the labor market.



**JERNYE MCZEAL**

Jernye is a motivated and determined 19-year-old who enrolled at M. Weeks Welding Laboratory and School to pursue a career in welding. From the beginning, she demonstrated strong focus, work ethic, and a commitment to succeeding in a nontraditional career pathway for women in the skilled trades.

Early in her journey, Jernye faced a setback when she narrowly missed passing a welding test with Bechtel. Despite the disappointment, she remained persistent with encouragement from her career coach, continued developing her technical skills, and completed SMAW 1-4 ahead of schedule by applying feedback and refining her craft.

Jernye's perseverance paid off when she retested in December 2025 and successfully passed, beginning employment as a structural welder on December 12, 2025. She now earns \$31.50 per hour with an additional \$3.00 night shift differential. Her story highlights resilience, determination, and how workforce support can help young adults secure high-demand, high-wage careers.

## 409 ENERGY SCHOLARS



On June 12, WSSET participated in the annual 409 Energy Scholars program hosted and presented by ExxonMobil in collaboration with Beaumont Independent School District. Held at Lamar University, the event engaged more than 30 BISD high school students in a focused professional development session centered on effective networking skills. Staff provided practical guidance on how to confidently introduce oneself, communicate career interests, and build meaningful professional connections within industry settings.

The session concluded with a mock networking exercise, allowing students to immediately apply what they learned in a real-world simulation and strengthen their communication skills. The 409 Energy Scholars program is a three-week initiative designed to expose BISD STEM students to the petrochemical industry and the wide range of career opportunities available throughout the region. By participating in this program, WSSET continues its commitment to preparing students for future success by connecting education, industry, and workforce readiness.

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT INITIATIVES

Throughout 2025, WSSET strengthened its role as a regional convener and technical resource by supporting key education and training partners with grant development and workforce guidance. WSSET provided application support, data insights, and strategic consultation to Lamar State College Orange, Lamar Institute of Technology (LIT), and Lamar State College Port Arthur (LSCPA) as they pursued funding through programs such as the Skills Development Fund, Jobs and Education for Texans (JET), and Upskill/Reskill initiatives. This assistance helped align training proposals with regional labor market demand while improving the competitiveness and clarity of each application.

Targeted support was also provided to address priority populations and emerging industries. Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas assisted LIT with its College Credit for Heroes (CCH) grant application, an initiative designed to help veterans transition into high-demand civilian careers more efficiently and with reduced financial burden. In addition to

application guidance, WSSET committed to supporting outreach and recruitment efforts alongside LIT to ensure eligible veterans are aware of and connected to these opportunities. Similarly, support for LSCPA focused on upskilling and reskilling workers for shipbuilding and related trades as the industry returns to the region.

Beyond education and training, WSSET advanced broader community support through cross-sector partnerships and regional collaboration. A new partnership with Step Forward Treatment Center was established to expand access to coordinated behavioral health, counseling, and recovery-supportive services, recognizing the critical link between workforce participation and overall well-being. WSSET also remained actively involved in the Regional Economic Development Initiative, providing workforce development expertise and labor market insight while supporting local economic development corporations and other regional partners in aligning growth strategies with workforce needs.



2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

# HIRING RED, WHITE, AND YOU! VETERANS JOB FAIR

On November 6, Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas hosted the 2025 Hiring Red, White, & You! Veterans Job Fair at the Beaumont Workforce Center, bringing together local employers and job seekers while honoring the men and women who have served our country. The event served as a meaningful opportunity to connect veterans and civilians alike with quality employment opportunities across Southeast Texas.

This year's job fair welcomed 33 employers representing a broad range of industries, ranging from petrochemical to healthcare, and engaged 246 job seekers, including 47 veterans seeking their next career step. Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas extends its sincere appreciation to our employer partners, community supporters, and especially our veterans for their service and participation. Events like these play a vital role in strengthening our regional workforce and opening doors to new opportunities for Southeast Texans.



## Hiring Red, White & You!

Acadian Ambulance	Hotard Shuttle
Allied Universal	International Cooling Tower
Arcwood Environmental	Mason Construction
Axion Logistics LLC	Montebello Home Care
Bechtel	PCL Construction
Better Business Bureau	Personnel Staffing, Inc
Canal Barge Company	Popeyes
Cascades at Port Arthur	Republic Services
City of Port Arthur	South East Texas Regional Planning Commission
Colonial Life Insurance	Spindletop Center
Communities Unlimited	Texas Department of Criminal Justice
Cumulus Media & Advertising	Texas Department of Public Safety
Federal Bureau of Prisons	Texas Healthtech Institute
Girling Personal Care	Texas Veterans Commission
Goodwill Industries of SETX	United Rentals, Inc.
Grand Canyon University	Windham School District
Gulf Copper	

2025 SOUTHEAST TEXAS

# MASON CONSTRUCTION RECOGNIZED



Mason Construction, our 2025 Small Employer of the Year, was recognized as a finalist for the statewide 2025 Small Employer of the Year at the 28th annual Texas Workforce Conference, held in Corpus Christi. This prestigious recognition highlights Mason Construction's outstanding commitment to workforce development, employee advancement, and community partnership. As a long-standing leader

in Southeast Texas, Mason continues to invest in training, safety, and career pathways that create meaningful opportunities for

local residents. Being named a finalist reflects the company's dedication to building not only critical infrastructure but also a stronger, more resilient workforce for the region.



## SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND GRANT SUMMARY

Through the successful award of a \$192,356 Skills Development Fund grant from the Texas Workforce Commission, Workforce Solutions Southeast Texas supported the delivery of specialized training for Entergy Texas employees across six worksites in Orange and Jefferson counties in 2025. The training was designed to prepare employees for the increased operational demands associated with the Orange County Advanced Power Station, where elevated safety standards, technical expertise, and leadership readiness are essential.

The grant provided high-impact professional development for 92 employees, with \$98,716 invested directly into workforce training programs focused on safety, compliance, leadership, and communication. Courses included Certified Occupational Safety Specialist (COSS), Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) training, Electrical Safety (NFPA 70E), MARC Labor Relations Essentials for Leaders, and Storytelling with Data:

Impactful Communication. As a result, Entergy strengthened its workforce’s ability to ensure safe, reliable plant operations while supporting the continued growth of Southeast Texas’ energy infrastructure and regional economy.

Training Course	Employees Trained
Certified Occupational Safety Specialist (COSS)	11
Continuous Emission Monitoring System (CEMS) Training	17
Electrical Safety National Fire Protection Association 70E	50
MARC (Management Associated Results Company) Training Labor Relations-Essentials for Leaders	12
Storytelling with Data	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>92</b>

## CELEBRATING NATIONAL DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH

On October 22, WSSET, in collaboration with Texas Workforce Commission – Vocational Rehabilitation, hosted its third-annual Inclusion Works event in honor of National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), reaffirming the Board’s commitment to advancing inclusive employment opportunities across the region. The event was held at the Lamar Institute of Technology Multi-Purpose Center and brought together employers, partners, and community members to celebrate the value and contributions of individuals with disabilities in the workforce.

The program opened with a proclamation presented by Roy West, recognizing the importance of inclusive hiring practices and the role they play in strengthening the local economy. Attendees also participated in a panel discussion featuring

vocational rehabilitation customers and business partners who shared firsthand perspectives on overcoming barriers to employment, building workplace accommodations, and creating pathways to long-term career success.

The event concluded with a keynote address from Melinda Paninski, Manager of Communication and Partnerships for the Vocational Rehabilitation Division with Texas Workforce Commission. Her inspiring message centered on empowerment, accessibility, and the shared responsibility of employers and communities to foster inclusive workplaces. Through Inclusion Works, WSSET continues to highlight best practices, elevate lived experiences, and encourage employers to recognize disability inclusion as a critical component of a strong and resilient workforce.



# YOUTH EXPO 2025



On February 6th, WSSET, exhibitors, and sponsors hosted 3,365 students from 39 schools at the 11th Annual Youth Career Expo. The event showcased 139 exhibitors arranged by career clusters, and 21 organizations sponsored the event.

## 2025 YOUTH CAREER EXPO SPONSORS

### PLATINUM

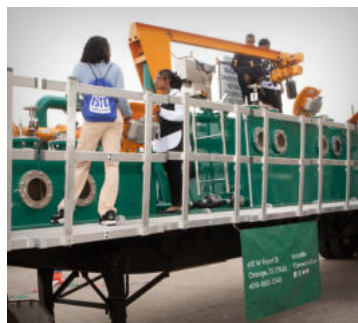
- C2 Global Professional Services
- Industrial Safety Training Council
- Industry of Southeast Texas
- Lamar State College Orange
- Lamar University College of Engineering
- Natgasoline LLC
- Southeast Texas Building & Construction Trades Council

### GOLD

- Beaumont Electrical JATC
- Bechtel
- Golden Pass LNG
- H-E-B
- Lamar Institute of Technology
- Mason Construction
- Neches Federal Credit Union
- Rave Financial
- Southeast Texas Economic Development Foundation (REDI)

### SILVER

- Entergy
- Oxbow Calcining LLC
- Port of Beaumont
- Port of Port Arthur
- The Lee Group



## 2025 YOUTH CAREER EXPO PARTNERS AND VOLUNTEERS

- Region 5 Education Service Center
- Southeast Texas Human Resources Association
- Junior Achievement of the Golden Triangle
- Texas Workforce Solutions
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services
- Greater Beaumont Chamber of Commerce

**▶ GUIDED BY CHANGE, GROUNDED IN PURPOSE**



**WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS SOUTHEAST TEXAS BOARD MEMBERS**

Roxanne Acosta-Hellberg <i>Board Chair</i>	Michelle Barnette	Kay DeCuir	Claire Jackson	LaToya Overstreet
Sue Daniels <i>Vice Chair</i>	Jeffery Broussard	Jerome Delafosse	Daniel Marshall	Rickey L. Simmons III
Dr. Shannon Allen	Capt. "Burnie" Burnistine	Dr. Wendy Elmore	Patricia Martinez	Brandy Trojeak
Michelle Armstrong	Natosha Coleman	Ada Hartman	Telisha McCall	Bobby Tupper
	Justin Cooper	Dr. Angela Hill	Diana Nguyen	Dr. Harold W. Whitfield
	Jeffrey Darby	Jamie Hogge	Bill Nickum	

**CHIEF ELECTED OFFICIALS**

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