

"Texas employers are standing strong during tough economic times. Businesses small and large, can earn Texas Back to Work incentives to expand their operations and offer new opportunities to unemployed Texans."

- Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst

## Texas Back to Work Offers Millions to Texas Employers

## Incentives available for hiring out-of-work Texans

Texas employers can receive a wage subsidy for hiring unemployed workers under a two-year, program promoted by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst and funded by the Legislature last session. Administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), Texas Back to Work offers employers a wage subsidy of up to \$2,000 for hiring qualified outof-work Texans. Contact your local Workforce Solutions for more information. A pre-recorded download of Texas Back to Work PSAs is available at http://www.twc.state.tx.us/news/press/2010/praudio10.html

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Texas Back to Work is available to employers through the 28 Texas local workforce development boards, which also provide employers with workforce recruitment assistance, pre-screening of qualified applicants and training programs. More than 1.8 million customers were served in more than 240 workforce centers across Texas last year.

"Valuable programs like *Texas Back to Work* exemplify the progressive vision of our leaders and make Texas a great place to do business," said Will Newton, Texas Executive Director, National Federation of Independent Business. Employers interested in participating should contact their local workforce development boards to learn about all options available in their areas and to help put *Texas Back to Work*.

Employers also are encouraged to take advantage of WorkInTexas.com, TWC's online job matching Web site where more than 250,000 employers already are registered to post job openings and find great employees. Local workforce board contact information can be found on the TWC Web site at http://www.twc.state.tx.us/dirs/wdbs/wdbmap.html or by calling 512-475-1146.

Here is what employers across the state are saying about the Texas Back to Work program:

- "Texas Back to Work allows our workforce to diversify to populations that have previously been untapped, while also providing flexibility and allowing us discretion in fulfilling our growing and changing needs." Tory Parker, Vice President of Manufacturing, Lauren Engineers & Construction Inc.
- "The workforce center will screen the individuals and only send you the qualified candidates in the first place, so it's really like having your own little HR recruiting agency working for you for free. Then, you get new employees on board, and if they're successful and stay for a certain number of weeks, you get paid back...you would be crazy not to [participate]." Bonnie Best, Human Resource Manager, Nestle Waters, North America Inc.
- "In Tarrant County, our Texas Leaders have definitely shown their interest and concern of the needs of the employer during this economic time, and they have diligently worked with programs offered, that are much needed, to help constituents of Texas get back to work. The money put aside for these programs is well spent."

   Sharlynda Bedford, Director of Human Resources, Sheraton Arlington Hotel