



## Texas Workforce Commission Office of Commissioner Representing Labor

Spring 2020

Issue No. 2



### Happy Spring

It may not technically be spring yet, but we're ready for bluebonnets and to celebrate Texans. Over the past few months, we've been working hard to ensure the Texas workforce is as strong as ever. Below are some of the highlights we wanted to share with you. Enjoy, and remember to follow me on twitter [@AlvarezTWCLabor](https://twitter.com/AlvarezTWCLabor)

### A Historic Year

2019 was a historic year for the Texas economy! Our unemployment rate hit a record low of 3.4% for six months, we were the top state in the number of jobs added, and individuals all across Texas received training on the skills needed to find their careers. As we get into 2020, we are excited to continue striving to ensure all Texans have access to the information and training they need to build the career they want.



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# We've Been Busy

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## Join us at SXSW Edu

Thursday, March 12, 2020  
2:00-3:00 p.m.  
Hilton Downtown Austin  
Rm 410

Ever struggled with providing high school students with "best-bet" college and career next steps?

Most of the future job growth will be in middle skill occupations, yet students and parents are largely unaware of the jobs and the education to get them. Texas Workforce Commission is piloting an initiative that places Workforce Counselors at schools to provide direct guidance to students for in demand jobs and related training. High School students who commit to pursuing non-traditional degrees in technical trades are celebrated every year on Texas Career Technical Education Signing Day.



## TWC and DOL

Recently, Commissioner Alvarez met with Labor Secretary Eugene Scalia, Assistant Secretary for Employment and Training John Pallasch and Regional Administrator Nick Lalpui to discuss Apprenticeship expansion in Texas and statewide initiatives that align education with workforce, such as Education Outreach Specialists.

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## The Future of Jobs



This past fall, Commissioner Julian Alvarez was one of the four speakers at the “The Future of Jobs” panel at the 2019 Open Congress session at The Texas Tribune Festival. Brenda Hellyer, Chancellor of San Jacinto College; Scott McClelland, chair of the Board of the Greater Houston Partnership and President of H-E-B Food/ Drug Stores and Marc Veasey, U.S. Representative were on the panel discussing technology and demography that are among the forces shaping the economy of tomorrow and the changing demands on our workforce. Commissioner Alvarez discussed the preparation that goes into building tomorrow’s workforce and the importance of credentials that are taught in registered apprenticeship programs that will lead individuals to entry level positions. Each

speaker on the panel discussed their contributions to building today’s Texas Workforce.

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## Celebrating Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center



Recently, Commissioner Alvarez visited the Texas Workforce Commission’s Criss Cole Rehabilitation Center (CCRC). The center was named in honor of former Texas Legislator and Judge Criss Cole, who lost his sight while serving as a Marine during World War II. A member of the Texas House of Representatives from 1955 to 1962 and the Texas Senate from 1963 to 1970, Cole was instrumental in improving services for all people with disabilities. CCRC is a state-of-the-art adult residential training facility located in the heart of Austin. It is the largest vocational training facility in the United States. CCRC works in partnership with customers to help them achieve employment and personal independence by providing training programs focused on the individual's consumer needs.

During the visit Commissioner Alvarez participated in training like cooking, locating a doorway and walking down a hallway.

CCRC believes that all individuals, regardless of vision levels, have the right to actively participate in employment, community and society. They are committed to providing assessment and training services for each individual in a manner that promotes the integration of basic blindness skills into everyday life. CCRC actively support and encourage individuals as they strive to achieve competence and confidence in reaching their work and independent living goals.

To participate in CCRC programs and services, consumers must: 1) be legally blind, 2) be referred by a [vocational rehabilitation counselor](#), 3) be independent with administering medications and self-care and 4) have a permanent residence in Texas. For more information about CCRC call 512-377-0300 or email

[ccrc.admissions@twc.state.tx.us](mailto:ccrc.admissions@twc.state.tx.us) and visit the TWC Website at

<https://twc.texas.gov/jobseers/criss-cole-rehabilitation-center>



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## Building Careers

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### New Registered Apprenticeship Program

Congratulations Anchor-Ventana Glass for launching a new Commercial Glazing Registered Apprenticeship Program.

Commissioner Alvarez joined federal, state and community leaders at Workforce Solutions Rural Capital Area to celebrate the new program.

Registered Apprenticeship combines on-the-job training under the supervision of experienced journey workers with related classroom instruction. Most of these training programs last from two to five years, as determined by industry standards approved by the Department of Labor – Office of Apprenticeship. Generally, apprentices are full-time, paid employees who earn while they learn.



## Career Information Hotline



The Labor Market and Career Information (LMCI) department conducts outreach efforts to disseminate career information and labor market information. LMCI specialists are available to provide a wide variety of services to enable our community partners to better understand the products we offer. Outreach efforts can range from career exploration presentations and teacher in-service facilitation to career fairs. These can be done from elementary schools to college campuses.

LMCI publishes counselor packets that contain various publications concerning careers and Texas labor market information. These publications are available to give teachers, advisers and parents the information necessary to

answer many questions students might have about their future careers.

By contacting the Toll-Free Career Information Hotline callers can request up to three informational printouts at a time. The LMCI Department has information on over 1,000 occupations and over 3,400 two-year and four-year colleges and universities, both public and private throughout the country. These are the same reports generated by our Texas Career Check online software, at [www.TexasCareerCheck.com](http://www.TexasCareerCheck.com). For more information visit <https://lmci.state.tx.us/shared/catalog.asp> or call (1-800-822-PLAN)

The LMCI department conducts outreach efforts and training in education and career information as well as labor market information. LMCI specialists are available to provide a wide variety of services to enable our community partners to better understand the products we offer at Texas Workforce Commission.

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## Big Heroes Tiny Homes



Commissioner Alvarez joined students from Humble ISD's Summer Creek High School and their Career and Technical and Technical Education program as they helped build tiny homes for Veterans. The mission of Students Helping Veterans: Big Heroes, Tiny Homes is to create a student-stocked tiny home community for homeless veterans in the Houston area through partnerships with non-profits,

businesses and private individuals in our community. They seek to provide a sense of community and safety to these individuals who have formerly lived on the streets of Houston, and to ultimately foster the development of similar projects across the nation.

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## Tri-Agency Partnership

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### 2020 Report

In February, the Tri-Agency released their most recent [report to the Office of the Governor](#) which highlights work done to boost Apprenticeship Crosswalks, Apprenticeship Expansion, CTE signing Day and Workforce Counselors in Texas. Gov. Abbot also [recently announced](#) his charges for the Tri-Agency Commission.



### 2020 CTE Signing Day

Last March, Representative James White read HR241 on the House Floor declaring Texas Career and Technical Education (CTE) Signing Day. The goal of CTE Signing Day is to recognize and celebrate high school students choosing to enter career pathways leading to in-demand careers in targeted occupations directly from high school. CTE Signing Day

supports the goals of the Tri-Agency by recognizing the important role that Career and Technical Education curriculum provides in ensuring a skilled future workforce.

For information on hosting your own CTE signing day [click here](#).

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**The Bureau of Labor Statistics estimates that between 2012 and 2022 there will be 50,557,900 jobs opening for CTE graduates in 16 different career clusters.**

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## Co-locate Workforce Specialist Accomplishing the Goals of the Tri-Agency



The Texas Workforce Commission approved a Request Proposal to pilot the Workforce Career and Technical Education Specialist Program at Local Workforce Boards. This program requires the establishment and implementation of a Workforce Career and Education Outreach Specialist (Pilot Program by the Texas Workforce Commission). This program will provide career services to students at public middle and high schools, grades six through twelve in designated regions in Texas to direct those students toward High Growth High

Demand Occupations experiencing existing or projected workforce shortages.

The grants will fund a minimum of two full-time Workforce Specialists to travel to designated schools with a school district(s) and be available at regularly scheduled hours for career counseling at area middle and high schools to deliver career guidance and workforce-information to students, including foster youth and students with disabilities. The grant funding totaling \$5,169,220 to be distributed in 2020 and 2021. Program participants will provide support to over 60 different independent school districts engaging approximately 165,000 students through 2,900 workshops in its inaugural year.

\$5,169,220 of the total RFA Workforce Career and Education Outreach Specialist Pilot Program was awarded to Local Workforce Development Boards (Boards):

- Workforce Solutions Capital Area
  - Workforce Solutions of Central Texas
  - Workforce Solutions Borderplex, Inc.
  - Workforce Solutions of West Central Texas
  - Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Development Board
  - North East Texas Workforce Development Board
  - Gulf Coast Workforce Board
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## Upcoming Events

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**RSVP Now**

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