

Texas Workforce Press Release

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***Texas Back to Work* Reemployment Program Wins National Award**

U.S. Department of Labor/National Association of State Workforce Agencies Honors TWC

AUSTIN— The *Texas Back to Work* initiative from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has been recognized at the 2010 National Conference on Unemployment Insurance in Washington D.C. today with the Unemployment Insurance (UI) Innovation Award for Reemployment. The U.S. Department of Labor and the National Association of State Workforce Agencies (NASWA) selected *Texas Back to Work* for the national award.

Funded by the Texas Legislature and supported by Lt. Gov. David Dewhurst, the initiative provides up to \$2,000 in wage subsidies to Texas employers for hiring qualified individuals who are currently receiving or have received Unemployment Insurance benefits within the last year.

“Congratulations to TWC and the *Texas Back to Work* initiative on this well-deserved, national recognition,” said Lt. Gov. Dewhurst. “It’s not only providing job opportunities, income and training for thousands of newly hired employees; it’s also helping small businesses, growing our economy and saving Texas taxpayers money in the process.”

Texas Back to Work is designed to offset the cost of hiring new workers to encourage employers to create long-term, private-sector employment for out-of-work Texans.

“With a relatively small investment in each new worker, the state has encouraged the creation of thousands of long-term, private-sector jobs,” said TWC Chairman Tom Pauken. “Millions in new salaries have been added to the state’s economy, and the initiative has reduced the demand on the state’s unemployment Trust Fund.”

“Nearly 7,000 hard-working Texans are back to work due to this initiative,” said TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Ronny Congleton. “*Texas Back to Work* is one of the many tools available from the Texas workforce system to assist those looking for work.”

“*Texas Back to Work* is delivering on its goal,” said TWC Commissioner Representing the Public Andres Alcantar. “I appreciate the efforts of Texas workforce staff across the state for their commitment to this successful, award-winning reemployment initiative.”

The 2010 National Conference on Unemployment Insurance sponsored by the U.S. Department of Labor and NASWA is commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program this week in Washington D.C.

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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 coordination with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.