



Building the Workforce

Correctional educators from Windham School District sign collaboration agreement with Gulf Coast Workforce Board, affiliate of Workforce Solutions

Houston, Texas – The Windham School District (WSD) signed an Employability Skills Collaboration Agreement with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board (GCWB) on April 26 at Workforce Solutions – Northline Office in Houston. WSD Superintendent Dr. Clint Carpenter, representing the state’s correctional educators serving within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ), and Mike Temple, director of Gulf Coast Workforce Board- Workforce Solutions, signed the agreement. This partnership will serve the board’s 13-county area: Harris, Ft. Bend, Liberty, Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, Matagorda, Wharton, Colorado, Austin, Waller, Montgomery and Walker.

“WSD looks forward to collaborating with the Gulf Coast Workforce Board,” Carpenter said. “This partnership provides a robust approach for meeting the challenges of re-integrating former offenders back into society. WSD graduates offer a great source of trained job seekers ready to prove themselves. The Gulf Coast Workforce Board will assist us in helping these men and women build lives and careers after release, resulting in reduced recidivism and unemployment.”

The Windham-Workforce Board-Workforce Solutions partnership focuses on giving former offenders high level employability skills and job opportunities in the Gulf Coast service area, enhancing economic growth through employment. The agreement is designed to increase community engagement, facilitate local work-ready community issues, and pursue employment opportunities to assist former offenders re-joining the workplace.

“After a person pays his debt to society, he deserves to come back, get a job, and be part of the community, like all the rest of us,” Temple said. “We want to make sure that everybody understands that Workforce Solutions is here to help people get a job, keep a job or get a better job; we’re here to invest in our employers and our community.”

The GCWB and its operating affiliate, Workforce Solutions, are the public workforce system in the Houston-Galveston region of Texas. This system helps employers meet human resource needs and individuals build careers --so both can compete in the global economy. The newly-signed one-year collaboration agreement will further support the GCWB mission to “enhance the workforce one person, one business, and one opportunity at a time.” It also supports Windham’s goals to reduce recidivism and the cost of confinement and to increase the success of former offenders in obtaining employment.

The WSD was established by the Texas Board of Corrections in 1969 to operate schools across the state within the TDCJ. The district’s mission, in partnership with its stakeholders, is to provide quality educational opportunities and workforce training. WSD focuses on providing education programs, skills training, and nationally-recognized certifications to help incarcerated men and women return to the workforce, their communities, and their families.

For more information about Windham School District, please visit <http://wsdtx.org> or contact WSD Partnerships & Information Resources Specialist Bambi Kiser (936-291-5307) Bambi.kiser@wsdtx.org.