

STATE OF TEXAS §
 §
COUNTY OF WEBB §

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A CONSORTIUM EFFORT FOR APPRENTICESHP PARTNERS
IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

WHEREAS, ensuring robust economic growth, a thriving community, and broadly shared prosperity will require significant expansion and alignment of industry demands with skills and career path training; and

WHEREAS, even as millions of Americans seek the post secondary education and training necessary to secure good jobs that pay fair sustainable wages, while employers continue to report difficulty in finding the skilled and experienced workers necessary; and

WHEREAS, in a time of intense global economic competition and particularly in bordering communities, and increasing income inequality at home, the United States must find innovative and cost-effective ways to help youths and adults gain the education and industry-recognized credentials they need to fully participate in our economy and our society; and

WHEREAS, education, workforce, and human service agencies are critical partners in the development, implementation, and funding of programs that build the strategic industry knowledge and skills our economy needs to thrive; and

WHEREAS, communities that break down the structural barriers between businesses, education, and community groups and that collaborate to renew their talent creation and economic systems will attract new businesses and retain existing ones; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to diversify our economy outside trade and government and strengthen existing industries and leverage existing assets already present in the region, industry clusters, and supply chains; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a glocal strategy is critical to the sustainability, growth and survival in a global market; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that our nation is facing critical circumstances where:

1. the Baby Boomer generation is coming closer to retirement and industry leaders are seeking to build the next generation of leaders; and
2. national statistics shows that 60% of students cannot find a job in their field of study, and student loan debt has reached a startling \$1.3 trillion, with 25% in default and 29% in deferment; and
3. 1 in 4 high school students that attends college, 70% don't finish; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate a best practices solution to this crisis we encourage the collaboration among academic institutions, community organizations and private sector industries to create

industry-specific degrees with apprenticeship programs which will position students at a more competitive advantage upon completing a post-secondary education which will allow students to be marketable for jobs in their field of study; and

WHEREAS, 87 percent of apprentices are employed after completing their programs and the average starting wage for apprenticeship graduate is over \$50,000; and

WHEREAS, it is encouraged to create a mentorship program with industry leader retirees for knowledge transfer with the next generation of leaders and consider teaching within their field of expertise at the level acceptable and permissible by academic institutions and/or offer personal mentorship and coaching at a designated apprentice academy; and

WHEREAS, the consortium will seek grant funding from local, state and federal agencies and public and private sector entities in order to fully realize the apprenticeship strategy and implement best practices for economic development in strategic career pathways; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED by the Commissioners Court of Webb County, that Webb County is in agreement of Webb County's inclusion in this consortium and its support for the submission of a consortium effort to develop, establish and implement a comprehensive industry-driven apprenticeship program with vital support from public and private sectors.

ORDERED this 9th day of November 2015.

WEBB COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT

Honorable Tano Tijerina