



2025 WORKFORCE EXCELLENCE AWARD NOMINATION FORM

NOMINATION FORM

APPLICANT:

Name of Community or Workforce Board

Contact Name and Title

Email Address

Telephone Number

Community Population (as of the most recent census or as officially marketed)

TEDC Member Name (TEDC membership is held by the individual, not the organization)

SUMMARY and INSTRUCTIONS:

Please attach a brief description of the workforce development initiative. Within this description, address the award criteria of Innovativeness, Transferability, Community Commitment and Leverage, Measured Objectives and Secondary Benefits. Please provide the start date of the project and completion date, if applicable.

The program or initiative is to be for the period of January 1 to December 31, 2024. Please provide measurable results for that 12-month period. The workforce development initiative can be a long-term project, however, it must show measurable results within the award year.

Important Information:

- The submittal must be the application page and four conventionally formatted 8.5" x 11" pages. Therefore, no more than five (5) pages in total for the award submission. Any award submissions that exceeds the five-page limit will be disqualified.
- The project or program may not have been submitted previously for a TEDC Workforce Excellence Award.

Please submit this completed nomination form and your project summary via email to Amy Swank at amy@texasedc.org on or before 5:00 PM, Friday, May 9, 2025. You may also submit up to five (5) photographs of your workforce project as separate jpeg or png files.

Application Fee: There is a \$100 fee to apply for the TEDC's Workforce Excellence Award. An invoice will be generated upon receipt of the application.

Youth CareerQuest

Shaping the Future Workforce of New Braunfels

**NEW BRAUNFELS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Youth CareerQuest

Shaping the Future Workforce of New Braunfels

Youth CareerQuest is a dynamic workforce development initiative designed to engage 8th-grade students from New Braunfels and Comal County in exploring career opportunities available within their local community. This event invites businesses and employers to play a pivotal role in shaping the future workforce by hosting interactive booths where students can experience firsthand what their industry offers. Through live demonstrations, hands-on activities, and career-focused information sessions, employers have the opportunity to inspire the next generation to explore various career paths and envision their future in the local workforce.

In its inaugural year, Youth CareerQuest successfully engaged 500 8th-grade students from New Braunfels ISD and Comal ISD, with 28 diverse employers spanning industries such as manufacturing, construction, healthcare, trades, utilities, public services, non-profit, and more. The event was strategically scheduled before the critical decision-making period when students select their High School programs of study and career pathways, ensuring they had the necessary information to make informed choices.

A unique feature of Youth CareerQuest was its collaboration with local High School Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, as well as Texas State Technical College, community colleges, and universities. This allowed students to directly connect their career interests with locally available certification and degree pathways, providing a clear roadmap for their educational and career progression.

By bringing together educational institutions, local businesses, and community organizations, Youth CareerQuest fostered a meaningful partnership that helps ensure New Braunfels' future workforce is well-informed, prepared, and motivated to pursue rewarding careers right here in their own community.



Over 500 students engaged with 28 local employers at our inaugural event in 2024.



Innovativeness

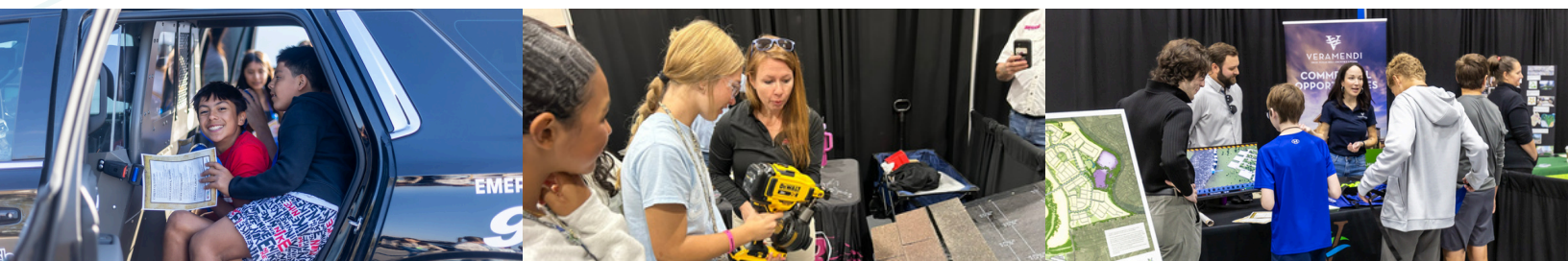
The Youth CareerQuest 2024 demonstrates innovative approaches to workforce development by integrating local businesses, educational institutions, and community stakeholders to inspire and educate 8th-grade students about career opportunities. By strategically aligning the event with students' crucial High School program selection period, the initiative ensures early career exploration, fostering a proactive approach to workforce development and our local talent pipeline.

Transferability

This program serves as a model for other communities seeking to engage youth in career exploration. By showcasing a diverse range of industries and career pathways, Youth CareerQuest provides a replicable framework adaptable to different regions aiming to strengthen their local workforce pipelines through early education and industry exposure.

Community Commitment and Leverage

Youth CareerQuest leverages extensive public-private partnerships, involving 28 local employers, city and county government, the Manufacturing Association, Human Resources Association, Chamber of Commerce, and educational institutions such as Texas State Technical College and community colleges. This collaborative effort enhances community engagement, encourages local investment in workforce development, and establishes a sustainable platform for future economic growth through education and career preparedness.



Students engaged with a wide variety of industries, representing public and private sector jobs in the region.

Measured Objectives

- 500 8th-grade students participated, gaining exposure to 28 diverse employers across various sectors.
- High School Career and Technical Education programs were showcased, aligning students' career interests with local certification and degree pathways.
- Tangible outcomes include increased awareness of career opportunities, fostering interest in local industries, and laying foundational knowledge for future workforce readiness.

Secondary Benefits

- Strengthening community-business ties through direct engagement.
- Enhancing local workforce retention by aligning educational pathways with industry needs.
- Promoting economic diversification by showcasing the breadth of career opportunities available locally, thereby encouraging talent retention and attraction.
- Business Retention & Expansion by directly connecting businesses with the next generation of workers, Youth CareerQuest contributes to a more sustainable and thriving local economy, benefiting business retention, expansion, and workforce development in the long term.

Project Timeline

- Start Date: January 1, 2024
- Completion Date: October 17, 2024

Testimonials

To hear firsthand from participating employers and partners, visit [this link](#).

