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First Business Opportunity Workforce Development Center to Open *Facility on Cedar Valley Campus to serve Metroplex*

Lancaster, TX – A first of its kind in Texas that will provide construction trainees with on-the-job training and supportive services, as well as comprehensive training and technical assistance to Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in the Dallas/Fort Worth Area, will be opened on the Cedar Valley College campus.

Cedar Valley College, in conjunction with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), hosted grand opening ceremonies for the Texas Business Opportunity Workforce Development Center (TBOWD) on March 22.

J.D. Dossett, director of TxDOT's Business Opportunity Program Office in Austin says the goal of the center is to increase the number of minorities participating in the highway construction industry as entrepreneurs and journeyman.

“Programs such as the TBOWD and partnerships with Cedar Valley College provide information on contract opportunities,” said Dossett.

“It also enhances business development skills by making technical industry and business development training available to a larger number in the construction industry.”

This unique training was developed through a partnership that has both TxDOT and the FHWA providing technical assistance and the TBOWD supportive services.

The TBOWD Center grand opening included remarks from federal, state and local transportation officials, and state and local dignitaries. The program will commence with a ribbon cutting ceremony followed by a tour of the facilities and a reception.

In year two of the TBOWD Program, a School-to-Work Initiative will be implemented that will target ten (10) high school students from the Lancaster Independent School District who are entering grade 12 that have expressed an interest in the construction industry.