



MEDIA RELEASE

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The WorkSource Recognized Nationally For Health Care Initiative

HOUSTON- On December 21, 2001, the U.S. Department of Labor and HCA – The Healthcare Company announced the creation of a \$10 million partnership that would train and employ people in selected healthcare careers in eight cities across the nation. The partnership was initiated and designed specifically to assist workers dislocated since the September 11, 2001 attacks. The WorkSource staff coordinated efforts in the Houston region.

Recently, DOL and HCA recognized the success of The WorkSource at a conference in Washington, D.C. Out of approximately ten similar projects nationwide, HCA presented an award to The WorkSource's Healthcare Industry Liaison, Karen Love, for her efforts in guiding the project locally and providing guidance to other workforce boards.

At its February meeting, the Gulf Coast Workforce Board recognized Love and the employment counselors from two of The WorkSource career offices who worked on the project. Abraham Flores from the Astrodome office and David Frels from the Westpark office screened a total of 700 candidates for training in 10 different healthcare occupations. Of the 75 candidates Houston enrolled, 44 are currently attending school and 15 have graduated from the program and are working.

The WorkSource is the largest of 28 workforce boards in the State of Texas and one of the largest regional workforce boards in the country. It operates 36 local offices placed strategically throughout the region—which includes Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller and Wharton counties.