

In the **SPOT**light

Gulf Coast Workforce Board Wins Industry Outreach Award



Left to right – TWC Commissioner Ronald Congleton; Gulf Coast Workforce Board members Mark Guthrie, Barbara Haley, Kathy Shingleton, Richard Shaw; Board staff Cally Graves and Rodney Bradshaw; and TWC Commissioner Ron Lehman.

In recognition of its commitment to the health care industry, The WorkSource- Gulf Coast Workforce Board was awarded the Industry Sector Outreach Award and a check for \$50,000 from the Texas Workforce Commission at its 11th Annual Texas Workforce Conference held November 14–16, 2007 at the Westin Galleria in Houston.

The WorkSource has been a key player in efforts to improve the recruitment and retention of hospital nurses in the Greater Houston area. It has been the coordinator of the Gulf Coast Health Services Steering Committee and its activities for seven years, partnering with the Greater Houston Partnership, Texas Medical Center hospitals and other medical institutions in its 13-county service region. The award recognizes a local workforce development board that has made a positive impact helping employers address workforce shortages in the areas of nursing, teaching or information technology.

Thanks to the efforts of the GCHSSC, Houston-area registered nurse enrollments are up 43 percent and graduation rates have increased by 67 percent.