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Jan. 04, 2005

# **Gov. Rick Perry Awards \$500,000 to TSTC Waco for Nanotechnology Initiative**

AUSTIN – Gov. Rick Perry today announced a \$500,000 grant to Texas State Technical College (TSTC) in Waco to launch the Nanotechnology Workforce Development Initiative to encourage college students to pursue careers in nanotechnology.

TSTC Waco will partner with Baylor University, Del Mar College of Corpus Christi, and Zyvex Corporation of Richardson on the initiative.

“Texas is a technology powerhouse, not by accident but because of active planning and strong public-private partnerships like this one,” Perry said. “This initiative demonstrates our commitment to ensuring Texas remains a key player in the high-tech workforce of the 21st Century.”

The grant, funded through the federal Wagner-Peyser Act and administered by the Texas Workforce Commission, will be used to provide internships and apprenticeships for engineering students at TSTC Waco and Del Mar College to work in advanced nanoscale manufacturing environments at Zyvex. Zyvex is the industry’s commercialization leader. Officials expect 40 to 50 students will get on-the-job experience through the Initiative.

“It’s imperative that we have a well trained, innovative workforce to bring the promise of nanotechnology to fruition here in Texas and the U.S.,” said Zyvex Founder and CEO James R. Von Her II. “This program is a major step to helping us meet the challenges of this competitive global economy and achieve that goal.”

The internships will be offered through Baylor University’s Center for Astrophysics, Space Physics and Engineering Research (CASPER). The center’s experimental lab is housed on the TSTC Waco campus. The CASPER internship will lay the groundwork for more advanced nanotechnology field experiences for students at Zyvex.

Once the program is operational, the Texas Workforce Commission will use the same model to replicate other nanotechnology initiatives at the state's 51 community colleges.

State officials anticipate that the Nanotechnology Workforce Development Initiative will be key to a concerted statewide effort to support advanced manufacturing in Texas as well as stimulate

entrepreneurial efforts and attract new business to the state. Nanotechnology is a key component to a new economic cluster strategy announced by the governor that requires strategic investments in burgeoning technology fields that can lead to decades of growth in Texas.

The Nanotechnology Workforce Development Initiative is also expected to accelerate efforts to secure additional government funding to further curriculum development and training efforts statewide.