



News Release

Texas Economic Development Council

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TEDC Honors Cities with Community Economic Development Awards

The Texas Economic Development Council (TEDC) announced the recipients of its annual Community Economic Development Awards (CEDA) for 2012.

The awards were presented at a special awards luncheon held Wednesday September 26th at the TEDC's Annual Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Austin. The two and one half-day conference entitled "Maintaining Texas' Edge" was held September 25-27th. The conference featured 22 breakout sessions and four general sessions and focused on the economic development policies that made Texas a leader in job creation and what Texas needs to do to maintain that status.

The Community Economic Development Award program recognizes exceptional contributions of TEDC member cities toward the economic vitality of their communities and the state of Texas through creativity, leadership, and partnership in the achievement of business retention, business recruitment and community improvement.

The CEDA committee received applications from 26 member communities. Nominees were then judged on five criteria: innovativeness, transferability, community commitment and leverage, measured objectives, and secondary benefits.

"As the largest state economic development association in the county, our members continue to develop unique approaches to creating, retaining and recruiting jobs to our state. The Community Economic Development Award program is our organization's way of recognizing these outstanding communities and sharing in their success" said TEDC Chairman Greg Last.

The CEDA recipients in the five population categories are:

Town of Westlake (Population less than 5,000) Pop. 992

The Town of Westlake, taking advantage of the natural beauty of a 107-acre site, attracted Deloitte University – a 700,000 square foot, state-of-the-art teaching facility. The facility will train Deloitte employees that serve their clients in finance, auditing, taxes and general consulting. Westlake used a development agreement and a ten-year tax abatement to help secure the \$300 million project. The project boasts 100 Deloitte jobs and an additional 350-400 hospitality professionals to maintain the day-to-day operations of the facility.

Marble Falls (Population 5,001-15,000) Pop. 6,077

The Marble Falls Economic Development Corporation, using innovative incentive agreements, attracted the corporate headquarters of CorWorth Building Systems – a manufacturer of permanent, pre-fabricated restroom and park facilities. The Marble Falls EDC designed an incentive agreement that would provide discounted rent in a facility it owns based on job creation by CorWorth. The agreement has helped the company save nearly \$170,000 during its first year. The company is projecting 62 employees making an average salary of \$34,635. Economic impact of the first year alone has been valued at more than \$4.4 million to the local economy.

Belton (Population 15,001-40,000) Pop. 18,216

The Belton EDC, working with the Governor's Office of Economic Development and Tourism, attracted CGI Group, a company that provides IT systems development, maintenance and integration services, data center support and back-office business functions. The project was enhanced by great participation from the city (and neighboring Temple), county and the state. CGI received a \$1.8 million Texas Enterprise Fund investment and a \$180,000 Skills Development Fund grant. The project will create 350-400 jobs in a \$7 million, 40,000 square foot facility.

Missouri City (Population 40,001-100,000) Pop. 68,447

Missouri City attracted Niagara Bottling Company to the site of a former golf course, which had been re-developed in to the Lakeview Business Park by the Trammel Crow Company. Missouri City provided a ten-year tax abatement and used a Section 380 Agreement to help streamline the development process. The \$60 million investment has now created nearly 100 jobs.

Fort Worth (Population 100,001 and above) Pop. 741,206

Fort Worth attracted GE Manufacturing Solutions, the world's leading manufacturer of rail and transportation products, as the site for a state-of-the-art locomotive manufacturing facility. GE purchased a 670,000 square foot facility and is expanding to approximately 900,000 square feet to accommodate the production of 250-300 locomotives per year. The \$100 million capital investment will bring more than 500 jobs with annual salaries averaging over \$40,000 per year. GE received a \$4.35 million Texas Enterprise Fund grant, \$3.3 million in tax abatements and a \$785,000 Skills Development Fund grant.

The TEDC was organized in 1961 and provides information, education and legislative services to its members to foster the expansion of existing businesses, the location of new firms and the development of strategies that promote a positive business climate in Texas. With 900 members, the TEDC is now the largest state economic development association in the nation.