



MEDIA RELEASE  
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## **Gulf Coast Workforce Board Honored at National Ceremony**

**Washington, D.C.**—The Gulf Coast Workforce Board was recognized as a Distinguished Honoree at the Theodore E. Small Workforce Partnership Awards ceremony as part of the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) annual conference held February 25 – 27 in Washington, D.C.

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board was honored because of its work in the creation of the Gulf Coast Health Services Industry Committee, a committee created in response to the Gulf Coast region's human resource needs of the health services industry. When it began its work, the board focused on the employers in this industry to discuss what they needed in the way of current and future employees.

The resulting committee was a partnership of business, education and the workforce system. The board brought together the Greater Houston Partnership, four university nursing schools, three medical schools and graduate schools of both public health and biomedical research, hospitals in the Texas Medical Center and the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston. The current goal of the committee is to increase the availability of skilled nurses in the Gulf Coast region, and to target the current critical need for registered nurses.

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board impressed NAWB with its work because the board sees this health care model as a template for other industries in the area with critical employment needs, such as telecommunications, transportation and energy.

The Theodore E. Small Workforce Partnership Award is named in memory of the late NAWB foundation member, Ted Small, who recognized that employer leadership is the key to enhancing the skills of the workforce and putting people to work.

Distinguished Honoree recognition is given for successful workforce initiatives that form strategic public and private alliances of businesses, workforce investment boards, schools, labor unions, community-based organizations and other groups intent on the same goal.

NAWB acknowledges that these alliances are not easy to develop or maintain and the Distinguished Honoree status is given to workforce investment boards and their partners who have advanced workforce development for not only their local communities, but for society as a whole with their models.

Counties served by the Gulf Coast Workforce Board are Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Colorado, Galveston, Fort Bend, Harris, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Walker, Waller and Wharton.