



Greater Houston Partnership Luncheon

Assistant Secretary of Labor Emily Stover DeRocco was the featured speaker at The WorkSource—sponsored Greater Houston Partnership luncheon on September 24. Pictured with her at the event are (left) Ron Lehman, Texas Workforce Commissioner Representing Employers, and (right) Frank Thompson, Chairman of The WorkSource-Gulf Coast Workforce Board.

G U L F C O A S T W O R K F O R C E B O A R D

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Year in Review

The WorkSource—Gulf Coast Workforce Board accomplished a great deal during its 2003–2004 fiscal year – a year full of economic and employment challenges in the 13-county Houston-Galveston Gulf Coast region. Among its accomplishments, The WorkSource:

- served a total of 620,000 individuals and employers —the most in its history
- provided outplacement services to 14,964 laid-off workers
- provided, and continues to provide, financial assistance and placement for a total daily average of 26,000+ children
- received a significant number of state and national awards for its performance and health care industry initiatives

As a result of the Workforce Board's dynamic strategic planning and innovative approaches to workforce development:

- the U.S. Department of Labor selected it as a mentor for several smaller and regional boards in the country
- the Department's National Business Learning Partnership recognized it for exceeding performance standards and wrote a study manual about the Board's success to use as an example for other boards in the nation
- the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) selected the Board as one of seven demand-driven incubator sites in the nation, recognizing the Board's growing partnership with high-growth, big-demand industries

work source

The Board Selected As National Incubator Site

The Gulf Coast Workforce Board and its delivery system, The WorkSource, have been recognized by the National Association of Workforce Boards (NAWB) as one of the nation's seven demand-driven workforce systems. This recognition is part of NAWB's Business Services and Outreach Project and includes a \$75,000 grant to enhance the Board's growing partnership with high-growth, high-demand industries.

Funded by the U.S. Department of Labor, the incubator site project aims at increasing peer-to-peer learning and information sharing based on demand-driven principles. Project goals include highlighting state and local areas which target high-growth, high-demand industries; providing a model to address the needs of industries with the greatest demand for workers; and documenting and sharing strategies on serving high-growth industries.

Of the seven sites selected nationwide, The WorkSource is the only system located in the Southwest. The other best board sites are in Maine, Florida, Virginia, New York, Pennsylvania and Washington.

One of The WorkSource's major accomplishments is a product of its collaborative relationship with the Greater Houston Partnership – the creation of the Gulf Coast Health Services Steering Committee. This initiative has increased the availability of training, funding and qualified workers for the region's health care institutions.

The Board expects to use some of the \$75,000 to host a greater number of visiting workforce boards from around the nation. It also is considering establishing an additional industry steering committee with private firms, education institutions and economic development partners in the Gulf Coast region.

