

Texas Workforce Press Release **DRAFT**

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TWC Approves \$1 Million for Math and Science Youth Summer Camps

Programs Inspire Students to Focus on Careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

AUSTIN – The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has awarded \$1 million to fund summer youth camps focusing on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). These Summer Merit Program camps support initiatives by Gov. Rick Perry to prepare Texas' future workforce to compete for the high-skill, high-demand jobs of the future.

“Texas will sustain its economic leadership by preparing today’s students for the workforce requirements of tomorrow,” Gov. Perry said. “Growth industries of the future will depend on foundations in math, science and technology.”

The Governor’s Summer Merit Program will include up to 50 existing or new summer camps providing opportunities for more than 1,000 students at Texas universities and community colleges during the summer of 2008, including:

- San Jacinto College
- Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
- Texas State Technical College
- Texas Tech University
- University of Houston
- University of Houston – Clear Lake
- University of North Texas
- University of Texas – Arlington
- University of Texas – Austin
- University of Texas – Dallas
- University of Texas – El Paso
- University of Texas – Medical Branch
- University of Texas – San Antonio

Summer camp program curriculums for students ages 14 and older include computer science, earth science, engineering, robotics, math, natural science workshops, scientific research and more.

One of the goals of the Summer Merit Program is to relieve financial obstacles for students who may not have had an opportunity to attend summer camp. The program also hopes to inspire students to pursue STEM-related careers, thus increasing the number of STEM college graduates in Texas. The Summer Merit Program is supported by Workforce Investment Act Statewide Activity funds.

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The Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency dedicated to helping Texas employers, workers and communities prosper economically. For details on TWC and the programs it offers in unison with its network of local workforce development boards, call (512) 463-8556 or visit www.texasworkforce.org.