



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 18, 2016

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**Media Advisory: State Commissioners to Meet in El Paso as Part of
Governor's Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative**

AUSTIN – As part of Gov. Greg Abbott's Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative, Commissioner of Education Mike Morath, Commissioner of Higher Education Raymund Paredes, Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) Chairman Andres Alcantar and TWC Commissioners Ruth Hughs and Julian Alvarez will host a media availability immediately following a regional workforce and education forum with local business and education leaders from the El Paso area on Friday, May 20.

Gov. Abbott established the initiative earlier this year to assess local economic activity, examine workforce challenges and opportunities and consider innovative approaches to meeting the state's workforce goals. The five agency leaders are hosting regional workforce and education forums statewide and will be available to answer questions from the media following the invitation-only forum.

Gov. Abbott has asked the commissioners to make recommendations later this year that enhance the skills of the Texas workforce and advance economic expansion in every region of the state, while strengthening K-12 and postsecondary education to ensure achievement of the goals of *60x30TX*, the state's new strategic plan for higher education.

WHO: Commissioner Mike Morath, Texas Education Agency

Commissioner Raymund Paredes, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Chairman Andres Alcantar, Texas Workforce Commissioner

Commissioner Representing Employers Ruth Hughs, Texas Workforce Commission

Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez, Texas Workforce Commission

WHAT: Update on Regional Workforce and Education Opportunities

WHEN: May 20, 2016 – 1:30 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.

(Media should arrive no later than 1:15 p.m. to allow for check-in)

WHERE: El Paso Community College, Administration Building B, 9050 Viscount, El Paso

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About Workforce Solutions Borderplex

Workforce Solutions is the public workforce system in the six-county Borderplex region that assists employers in finding quality employees, and training individuals with the skills necessary to thrive in the workplace. We administer a broad range of programs and services to effectively address local workforce issues. Workforce Solutions establishes partnerships with various stakeholders within the region to improve education, employment, and economic development. Our organization and its initiatives have been recognized and awarded by the Texas Workforce Commission for our innovative approach to assisting employers and job seekers.

About The Borderplex Alliance:

The Borderplex Alliance is a bi-national, private sector led regional economic development organization that has as its main objective the integration and promotion of the economies of El Paso, Texas; Cd. Juarez, México; and Southern New Mexico.

About CREED

The Council on Regional Economic Expansion and Educational Development (CREED) is a not-for-profit education policy and advocacy group focused on creating measurable outcomes and dedicated to closing the achievement gap for El Paso County students. We accomplish this goal by investing in policies, programs and metrics that prepare students to succeed in college and our future workforce.

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