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West Texas Energy Consortium Announces New Chairman

Leadership and committee initiatives unveiled to continue efficiencies in regional collaboration

Wednesday, February 18, 2015: The West Texas Energy Consortium (WTxEC or Consortium) is under new leadership. After a highly successful first year led by Chairman Victor G. Carrillo, Vice Chairman, Ken Becker, has taken the Chairmanship role heading into 2015. Mr. Carrillo will continue serving on the Consortium's Executive Board as Chairman Emeritus and Doug Ridge, retired Director of the Office of Employer Initiatives at the Texas Workforce Commission and Principal of Bull Wheel Operating Company, will fill the Vice Chairman role. The Consortium will continue to receive expert leadership from workforce leaders, local legislators, and energy industry representatives. In an effort to better support Consortium initiatives, two additional industry advisory seats have been added to the WTxEC Executive Board in 2015.

Ken Becker, Executive Director of Sweetwater Economic Development, is excited for the projects WTxEC has underway. Says the new Chairman, "As we move forward through uncertain times, sustainability for our programs and communities become a focal point where resources will need to be allocated. We continue to be proactive in addressing needs like workforce development and training." The Consortium, participating community colleges, and technical school partners are putting the final touches on a regionally aligned Level I welding certificate, the first of its kind in the state. Upcoming projects include regional endorsements for business and electrical, to further both transparency and transferability among regional education partners.

In partnership with Shell Oil, the WTxEC is delivering municipal responder strategic and tactical training to better equip local, and heavily rural, fire and emergency medical service departments around West Texas to respond to oilfield emergencies. Three training dates are currently scheduled during Spring 2015. For more information on these or other Consortium projects and/or upcoming events, please visit www.wtxec.org or contact Alyssa Goodgame, Regional Outreach Coordinator, at alyssa@wtxec.org or 937-416-7591.