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**PRESS RELEASE**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Workforce Solutions is Putting the Unemployed Back to Work**

*Study shows that Valleyites are outpacing the rest of the state in reentering the workforce*

**McAllen** – A report released today by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) found that Workforce Solutions, the local workforce board that services Starr, Hidalgo and Willacy counties, had a 107.25% success rate in placing unemployment insurance claimants back in the workforce within 10 weeks of filing for benefits – the highest success rate in the state. The study is from July 2010 to February 2011 and based on individual performance measurement goals set by the State for each workforce board.

“This study reaffirms what many national publications have been saying about the Valley for a while,” said Yvonne ‘Bonnie’ Gonzalez, CEO of Workforce Solutions. “That is, our region continues to produce jobs and fair far better in this difficult economic environment compared to most of the country.”

According to last month’s Labor Market and Career Information reports, the McAllen-Edinburg-Mission MSA reported an 11.4 percent unemployment rate – the lowest unemployment rate for the region so far this year.

“I also believe this speaks to our region’s culture and work ethic,” said Gonzalez. “I would be remiss if I didn’t mention our community business leaders and partners, and the key role they play in our region’s success. It is because of their resilience and tenacity that our region continues to prosper and put people back to work.”

Workforce boards across the state of Texas have multiple performance measures they must meet monthly and/or quarterly. The *Claimant Reemployment within 10 weeks* performance measure is one of several performance measures workforce boards report to TWC. Workforce Solutions is 1 of the 28 workforce boards in Texas.

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*Workforce Solutions is a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to the delivery of employment and publicly-funded training services, and helping communities prosper economically. For details on Workforce Solutions and the programs and services it offers, please call (956) 928-5000 or visit [www.wfsolutions.org](http://www.wfsolutions.org). Workforce Solutions is an Equal Opportunity Employer/Program.*