



MEDIA RELEASE

*Tennessee Department of Labor
& Workforce Development*

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GOVERNOR AWARDS LAWRENCE COUNTY COMPANY JOB TRAINING GRANT *GRAFTECH INTERNATIONAL LTD. AWARDED \$25,000*

NASHVILLE – Governor Phil Bredesen and Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner James Neeley have awarded \$25,000 to GrafTech International Ltd. in Lawrenceburg. The grant will assist 60 employees with team training. Incumbent Worker Training grants assist existing employers with training needs associated with skills upgrades for their employees. Over the past three years, Incumbent Worker Training grants have totaled more than \$5.7 million to assist more than 22,000 employees.

"With the current economy, job training is essential to keep employees and companies competitive," said Governor Bredesen. "Our goal is to keep jobs in Tennessee and upgrade the skills of our workers."

"The Incumbent Worker Grants are an invaluable tool to aid Tennessee's economy," said Commissioner Neeley. "I am pleased to award this grant to GrafTech International."

"I commend the Department for awarding the Incumbent Worker Grants to these two companies," said Senator Doug Jackson.

"These grants are great for local communities and the state," said Representative Joey Hensley.

The South Central Tennessee Workforce Board played a key role in awarding the grant to the two companies.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers the Incumbent Worker Training program. The business may use public, private, or its own in-house training provider based on the nature of the training.

The following criteria must be met to qualify for the Program. Employers must be in operation in Tennessee for at least one year. Employers must have at least five full-time employees, demonstrate financial viability and be current on all state tax obligations. Funding priority is given to businesses whose grant proposals represent a significant layoff avoidance strategy and represent a significant upgrade of skills.