



## U.S. Department of Labor Employment & Training Administration

### ETA New Releases

ETA News Release: [Feb. 14, 2006]  
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### **U.S. Department of Labor Awards \$1.1 Million Grant to Improve Workplace English Skills of Hispanic Workers in Texas**

**WASHINGTON** – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced a grant of more than \$1.1 million to improve English language skills of Hispanic individuals in Texas. The grant, awarded to SER–Jobs for Progress National Inc., will prepare approximately 2,430 participants for careers in the hospitality industry.

“Workers need to be able to communicate in English to advance at the workplace and in their careers,” said Secretary of Labor Elaine L. Chao. “This grant will help equip over two thousand workers in Texas with the language skills they need to succeed in the workplace and to participate more fully in our society.”

The 15-month project funded by the grant will offer the Sed de Saber (Thirst for Knowledge) workplace-based language acquisition program to over 2,400 Hispanic individuals in Dallas, El Paso, Fort Worth and Lubbock. Participants will be recruited through hospitality employers and referred to participating One-Stop Career Centers for assessment and orientation.

“The hospitality industry in Texas is growing, and this project will help develop a pipeline of skilled workers who overcame language barriers and are prepared to meet the needs of area businesses,” said Assistant Secretary of Labor for Employment and Training Emily Stover DeRocco. “Participants in this project will be provided computer and software access to improve their ability to compete in the 21st century workforce.”

Mentors will be assigned to participants who also will have access to supportive services such as transportation, child care and General Equivalency Degree studies.