



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Goodwill Lubbock Honored with Multiple Awards**

Workforce Solutions South Plains awards precede nominations to state awards

**LUBBOCK, TEXAS** — Goodwill Industries of Northwest Texas (GINWT) was honored by Workforce Solutions South Plains (WSSP) with the presentation of three awards for their achievements. These awards included, Small Employer of the Year, Local Employer of Excellence and Service to the Community. The 18<sup>th</sup> Annual employer Awards of Excellence and Scholarship Luncheon was held July 10, from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the McKenzie/Market Alumni Center.

“People think of Goodwill as an entity with one function, but they are multi-faceted, and that is something that is singular to Goodwill,” said Martin Aguirre, CEO of Workforce Solutions South Plains, explaining why Goodwill is being awarded in three separate categories. “It is unusual to award one employer with several awards, but it is something that is rather exclusive to Goodwill. They serve many functions including being an employer who develops and assists their employees by being a retailer that serves the community through raising revenue to support their mission of training job seekers for the workforce. And they give back to our community in many other ways as an employer of excellence.”

Aguirre also mentioned that two of the local honors, Small Employer of the Year and Local Employer of Excellence, are a segue to Goodwill being nominated for and recognized for its outstanding achievements at the state awards which are held every year by the Texas Workforce Commission. The 2019 Texas Workforce Conference, cohosted with the International Association of Workforce Professionals-Texas Chapter, will be held December 4-6, at the Gaylord Texas Resort & Convention Center in Grapevine, Texas. The state will award one winner for Small Employer of the Year from submissions by each of the 28 workforce boards in the state, including GINWT, nominated by WSSP. TWC will also honor the awardees from each board area for Local Employer of Excellence, including GINWT.

The Employer of the Year honors a small employer, with fewer than 500 employees, whose, as the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) outlines in their nomination requirements, “efforts and initiatives have had an extraordinary effect on the state of Texas, other employers, workers, and the communities in which the employer does business.”

GINWT was awarded the Local Employer of Excellence for WSSP’s board area as an employer who “created or used innovative approaches to support the Texas workforce system’s goal of ensuring that both employer and workers have the resources and skills Texas needs to remain competitive,” according to TWC’s nomination outline.

WSSP also honored GINWT with the local Service to the Community award at the luncheon for its economic and other positive impacts made on the area’s community, workers, businesses and the state of Texas over the last 12 months.

“I extend my greatest appreciation to Goodwill’s Board of Directors and staff for continuing to develop this long-standing social enterprise that has been putting people to work in our area for over 50 years. It is an



honor for Goodwill to be recognized as a model throughout the state for contributing to our area's workforce as an organization whose initiatives have made a positive impact on the state, other employers, workers and our community," said Robin Raney, CEO of Goodwill Industries of Northwest Texas.

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*Goodwill Industries of Northwest Texas is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization with a mission of creating job opportunities for people with barriers to employment. This mission is supported by its Training, Placement and Life Skills (T-PALS) program, which is committed to helping people find jobs, whether within Goodwill itself or in the community, through free job training and placement services and classes focused on resume writing, interview skills and job search techniques, as well as beginning, intermediate and advanced computer classes. For more information, visit [www.goodwillnwtexas.org](http://www.goodwillnwtexas.org).*