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News Release

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Workforce Solutions Alamo Connects Students with Disabilities to Meaningful Paid Summer Employment Experience

Summer Earn and Learn program provides students with unique abilities opportunities to gain new skills and explore careers

(April 30, 2026) SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS - Workforce Solutions Alamo (WSA) is enrolling students with disabilities ages 16 to 22 in this year's **Summer Earn and Learn (SEAL) program**. The program provides students in the 13-County Alamo Region opportunities to gain new skills and explore careers during a five to eight week paid professional work experience.

According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, individuals with unique abilities experience a much higher unemployment rate at 8.3% compared to the 4.1% for people without disabilities. Students participating in SEAL attend work readiness training to prepare for successful employment. In partnership with the Texas Workforce Commission, Texas Workforce Solutions-Vocational Rehabilitation Services (TWS-VRS), and Workforce Solutions Alamo, SEAL works with employers to provide students with practical work experiences that help them develop skill sets and build confidence to pursue their future career goals. The program also provides students with a sense of purpose and contribution.

"Individuals with disabilities have historically experienced high unemployment rates yet represent the largest group of untapped talent especially in a tight labor market," said Adrian Lopez, CEO of Workforce Solutions Alamo. "We are committed to supporting students of ALL abilities by providing connections to work experiences and career exploration activities that truly transform their lives while helping to strengthen our local economy."

In 2025, 180 students participated in the program with 32 participating employers including Sea World, The Witte Museum, Jourdanton ISD, BFI Treasures, City of Poteet, along with many others. Positions included customer service representatives, marketing coordinators and administrative assistants. In total, SEAL participants earned \$169,564 in wages and worked a combined 12,560 hours.

To enroll, interested students, parents, or caregivers should visit:
<https://www.cognitofrms.com/WorkforceSolutionsAlamo1/2026SEALCommunityInterestForm>

The deadline to enroll for SEAL 2026 is **June 30, 2026**. Spots are limited.

Employers participating in SEAL benefit from the addition of engaged and enthusiastic team members who bring problem-solving skills and new perspectives to the workplace.

EMPLOYER INFORMATION

- SEAL exposes students with disabilities to professional opportunities through a paid short-term program (5-8 weeks.)
- Wages and Workers Compensation are paid directly to participants by Workforce Solutions Alamo.
- Your business will make a positive impact and be an employer that equips and empowers inclusivity.

If you are an interested employer who currently works with the Workforce Solutions Alamo Business Services team and would like to participate in SEAL or learn more, please contact your Business Services Representative. If you do not currently work with Workforce Solutions Alamo and are interested in SEAL please email business_services@wsalamo.org.

Workforce Solutions Alamo invites media partners to the share this information with the community. Interviews with Workforce Solutions Alamo staff regarding the SEAL Program are available upon request. Past program participants and local employer partners are also available for outreach. Please contact the Workforce Solutions Alamo Communications department with any questions at communications@wsalamo.org.

For more information about Workforce Solutions Alamo and the organization's impact on the community as the area leader in workforce development, please visit workforcesolutionsalamo.org, or call (210) 224-4357.

Federal Funding Disclosure Statement: This program is financed with 100% Federal Funding. This program year's dollar amount will be \$225,000.00. 0% and \$0 of the program will be financed by nongovernmental sources.

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About Workforce Solutions Alamo:

The Workforce Solutions Alamo Board serves as the governing board for the regional workforce system, a network of service providers and contractors that brings people and jobs together. Workforce Solutions Alamo is composed of the 13-county Alamo region. Workforce Solutions Alamo membership reflects the diverse constituencies of the regional community: business, economic development, education, labor, community organizations, and government. For more information on available workforce programs and services, visit www.workforcesolutionsalamo.org or call 210-438-0581.

Workforce Solutions Alamo is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. (Please request reasonable accommodations at least 48 hours in advance) Texas Relay Numbers: 1-800-735-2989 (TDD) or 1-800-735-2988 (Voice) or 711.

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