



UPSKILL UPDATE

NOVEMBER 2019

UPSKILL HOUSTON SPOTLIGHTS THE VALUE OF COLLABORATION

Could you imagine sharing your organization's development plans or workforce woes with a competitor?

Over the last five years, we, as UpSkill Houston, have built an environment in which employers, educators, and workforce development leaders feel comfortable sharing workforce challenges and triumphs with organizations seen as traditional competitors as well as across industry, economic sector, and community lines.



This spirit of collaboration is part of what uniquely positions us as an engine for change in developing a larger and more skilled workforce that creates opportunity for all here in Greater Houston.

Click above to view "The Value of Collaboration" on YouTube

Earlier this year, four members of our executive committee – Texas Children's Hospital Senior Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer Linda Aldred, San Jacinto College Chancellor Dr. Brenda Hellyer, Alief Independent School District Superintendent HD Chambers, and BakerRipley Chief Program Officer Rene Solis – sat down with our executive committee chair, Gilbane Building Company's Senior Vice President, Director of Strategic Services Dan Gilbane, to describe how their involvement in UpSkill Houston has driven real change within their organizations and industries.

Today, with this story, we are launching a series of topical two- to four-minute videos that feature insights from that cross-sector group of executives and illustrate the strengths of UpSkill Houston's approach. We encourage you to watch these segments as they are released and use them to help tell UpSkill Houston's story within your own organizations and networks.

[View this and more videos highlighting UpSkill Houston's approach on YouTube here.](#)

NEW TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL SETS AGENDA FOR 2020

In 2019, employers from Greater Houston's transportation and heavy equipment industries convened as UpSkill Houston's newest employer-led sector council.

The Transportation Sector Council, led by employees of Gulf States Toyota, Group 1 Automotive, Mustang Caterpillar, and Metro, has embarked on work to identify workforce demands, develop a skills/competency survey, and assess education and training programs.

[See more about the council's work and areas of focus here.](#)

UPSKILL IN THE COMMUNITY

ACS LEADS EMPLOYERS, EDUCATORS ON APPRENTICESHIP VOYAGE

UpSkill Houston partner Adaptive Construction Solutions (ACS) recognized Veterans Day and National Apprenticeship Week on Nov. 11 with a workshop designed to help employers understand and develop apprenticeship programs while attracting veterans to their workforce.

Led by Nicholas Morgan, ACS founder and president, and Carlos Pulido, its executive vice president, - both veterans - the "Apprenticeship Voyage" illustrated the effectiveness of apprenticeship programs in offering pathways into good careers, especially for veterans.



Veterans and former ACS apprentices Luke Hill, Theodore Schrock, and Alexis Felix shared their stories of success during the Apprenticeship Voyage event held at The Bell Tower. (Photo credit: ACS)

According to the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), more than 1.7 million veterans live in Texas, and between 22,000 and 28,000 service members return to Texas or remain in Texas following their military service, annually.

Sessions led by ACS partner and fellow UpSkill Houston partner Workforce Solutions focused on how the organization's career coaches work with clients and employers to match individuals and opportunities with individuals, and detailed the criteria employers need to meet to receive federal reimbursements for their on-the-job training programs.

The program also included comments from TWC Commissioner Representing Labor Julian Alvarez III and recognition of businesses that have invested in apprenticeship programs to provide opportunities for veterans. Bryant Black, Greater Houston Partnership Director, Regional Workforce Development, provided an overview of labor market demands.

For More Apprenticeship Information:

- [Visit the Texas Workforce Commission online here.](#)
- [Visit Workforce Solutions online here.](#)
- [Visit Adaptive Constructions Solutions online here.](#)

UPSKILL HOUSTON TO BENEFIT FROM ELITE FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation has named Peter Beard, Greater Houston Partnership Senior Vice President, Regional Workforce Development and UpSkill Houston leader, among an Elite Cohort in its prestigious Business Leads Fellowship Program.

Beard will participate in an invitation-only, advanced Foundation program designed to elevate existing work, navigate change management, and apply best practices in evaluation, funding, data, and member services.

The 35 members of the Elite Cohort are established workforce leaders at the state or local level and have implemented multiple successful education and workforce solutions in their local communities.

[Learn more about the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Fellowship Program here.](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **November 21:** State of the Ports ([See event information](#))
- **December 5:** Houston Region Economic Outlook ([See event information](#))
- **December 10:** State of the Airports ([See event information](#))
- **January 22:** Greater Houston Partnership Annual Meeting ([See event information](#))

WHAT WE'RE READING

- Aspen's playbook for linking talent ecosystems and the jobs environment ([Managing the Future of Work podcast](#))
- Q&A with HD Chambers: Collaborating Across Sectors to Improve Individual Lives and the Workforce ([The Houston Report blog](#))
- Here's Why Your Kid Should Go Into the Trades([Inc.](#))
- Interactive Expos Give Students Real World View of Career Paths, Help Break Down Stereotypes ([The Houston Report blog](#))
- She Builds Houston encourages young women to join male-dominated industry([The Houston Report blog](#))

