



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

*Tennessee Department of Labor  
& Workforce Development*

For Immediate Release  
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### **GOVERNOR AWARDS BLOUNT CO. COMPANIES JOB TRAINING GRANT**

*VANDERBILT MORTGAGE & FINANCE AND CHEROKEE MILLWRIGHT  
& MECHANICAL AWARDED A TOTAL OF \$56,452*

**NASHVILLE** – Governor Phil Bredesen and Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development Commissioner James Neeley have awarded \$28,498 to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance and \$27,954 to Cherokee Millwright and Mechanical in Maryville. This grant will provide training to 65 employees at Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance in Advanced Achievement Leadership and will provide training to 17 employees at Cherokee Millwright and Mechanical in Large Hydraulic/Small Hydraulic Cranes NCCO Certifications, Certified GeoExchange Designer and Basic Business Solar Thermal Systems.

"Job training to upgrade the skills of Tennessee's workers is one of the best things we can do for our economy," said Governor Bredesen. "Now more than ever, it is important to continue training our workforce to keep employees and companies competitive."

"The Incumbent Worker Grants help companies invest in the future of their workers," said Commissioner Neeley. "Over the past six years, Incumbent Worker Training grants have totaled more than \$11 million to assist more than 40,000 employees."

"I commend Governor Bredesen and Commissioner Neeley for awarding these grants in Blount County," said Senator Doug Overbey.

"The Incumbent Worker Grants are a good tool to keep employers and workers up to date on the latest skills training," said Representative Bob Ramsey.

The East Tennessee Human Resource Agency played a key role in awarding the grants to Vanderbilt Mortgage and Finance and Cherokee Millwright and Mechanical.

The Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development administers the Incumbent Worker Training program. The program has been structured to be flexible to meet the business's training objectives. 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 Incumbent Worker Training Program. Employers must be in operation in Tennessee for at least one year prior to application date. 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.

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