

# ***NEWS RELEASE***

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Seguin Electric Utilities Apprenticeship Program Produces First Graduates *Three DOL-Certified Program Graduates Recognized***

**SEGUIN, Texas** – The City of Seguin is proud to announce the first three graduates of the Seguin Electric Utilities Apprenticeship Program. Tim Martin, Freddy King and Joe Garcia received their Department of Labor certifications in October.

The Seguin Electric Utilities Apprenticeship Program was certified by the DOL in January 2013. The four-year program provides meticulous instruction, training and job skill enrichment. Graduates must complete 8,000 hours of on-the-job training and 575 hours of classroom instruction. Each apprentice is paired with a mentor who evaluates their overhead, underground, service truck and substation work.

“This is a great accomplishment for these guys,” Seguin Electric Utilities Director Clarence Smith said. “These three graduates have improved their knowledge, technical skills and practical experience.”

The program includes dozens of tests that include, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, electrical theory and mechanical engineering. Participants are also required to maintain physical fitness. Martin, King and Garcia each have more than 15 years of experience in the electric utilities industry. Five other apprentices are currently enrolled in the program.

The program is also certified by the Department of Veteran Affairs. The certification allows participants to utilize GI Bill benefits. Currently one apprentice is taking advantage of this designation.

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Pictured left to right, back row first: Seguin Electric Utilities Director Clarence Smith, Freddy King, Joe Garcia, Ethan Courtney, Dereck Pusser, Tim Martin, Bobby Hyatt, Michael Sanchez, Jimmy Herrera, Dodson Renaud and Val Gurrola.

**About the City of Seguin**

Seguin, Texas is located off Interstate 10, about 35 miles east of San Antonio. Seguin is big enough to boast a top-rated university and a state-of-the-art hospital. More than 25,000 residents enjoy a range of cultural, recreational and employment opportunities. Seguin's robust diversified economy features a steelmaker, a manufacturer of automotive parts and plants making roadside mowing equipment and building materials. In 2009, Seguin was proud to be selected by Caterpillar as the site of a major new engine manufacturing facility.

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