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## **Quantex - Houston County, Texas winner of 2013 State of Texas Small Business Award Winner**

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### **Quantex Instruments Named 2013 State of Texas Small Business Award winner from Houston County**

during the Governor's Small Business Forum and Texas Forest Country Partnership Annual Meeting at the Pitser Garrison Convention Center in Lufkin.

A great asset for the county.

Kelley Holcomb, chairman of the 2013 TFCP board of directors, stated that the forum is sponsored by the Texas Governor's Office, the Texas Workforce Commission and local partners.

Holcomb went on to say, "The whole purpose is to recognize small businesses and It is really a celebration of the entrepreneurial spirit and recognizes those who have gone before that — in spite of the odds, the red tape and the bureaucracies — still choose to go out and start a small business and ultimately become successful. Every big business started out as a small business. It's really about bringing together the pieces, the tools and making them available to small businesses here in East Texas."

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Lufkin Mayor Bob Brown welcomed the group. Keynote speaker for the event was Steve Murdock, the Allyn & Gladys Cline professor of sociology and director of the Hobby Center for the Study of Texas at Rice University. Murdock is the former director of the U.S. Census Bureau and state demographer of Texas. With extensive experience in research on a variety of issues, he focused on Texas demographics with statistics now and what are projected in the future. Murdock also analyzed state and sub-state population changes that occur in East Texas.

“If we do not ensure that workers have the skills and education they need to be competitive in the future, they will make less money, and their expenditures for goods and services will decline, negatively impacting area businesses,” Murdock said. “The reality of it is, if we don’t take into account these demographic trends and plan for the future of our country and as we plan for the future of our state and as you plan for the future of your area, we are going to be much less successful than if we do take them into account.”

Other speakers included state Sen. Robert Nichols (R-Jacksonville), state Rep. Trent Ashby (R-Lufkin); Marilyn Hartsook, interim director, Workforce Solutions Deep East Texas; and Brian McClain, director, Small Business Development Center.

The Texas Forest Country Partnership has served East Texans for more than 45 years. With its emphasis on economic development activities in the 13-county region that it represents, TFCP works in the development and preservation of East Texas’ natural resources, promotes tourism efforts and supports initiatives to improve transportation throughout the region. Hosts for Tuesday’s event included Texas Forest Country Partnership, Texas Wide Open for Business, Texas Workforce Commission, and Work Force Solutions Deep East Texas, Presenting sponsor was First Bank and Trust of East Texas.