



San José / Evergreen
Community College District

NEWS

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TRADES COUNCIL OF SANTA CLARA & SAN BENITO COUNTIES

– FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE –

May 13, 2010

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Unique training partnership brings green job opportunities

SAN JOSE – As the recession begins to wane, construction in Santa Clara County is primed for resurgence as a cutting-edge green industry. A unique partnership of labor, education and business groups is launching a pilot program next week to train a workforce prepared to thrive in this new economic environment and that is directly linked to job placement.

News media are invited to observe and report on the “boot camp” portion of the Apprentice Roofers Readiness Program beginning Monday, May 17 at the Santa Clara County Electrical JATC, 908 Bern Court in San José. In addition to a classroom curriculum, the Tuesday and Wednesday sessions May 18 and 19 will provide interesting outdoor photo and video opportunities in workplace setting activities focusing on physical abilities, health and safety and hands-on introduction to the building trades at a career fair.

The 40 hours of “boot camp” will be followed in June by 120 hours of more specific training using a newly developed curriculum from the National Building and Construction Trades. Through a first-of-its-kind partnership, the Roofers and Waterproofers Local Union 95 will provide expert instructors for portions of the curriculum and will bring roofing employers into the classroom to educate students on the industry. Upon graduation, successful students will have the opportunity to be hired directly by participating employers and begin a 5-year paid apprenticeship with the Roofers. The boot camp and training are sponsored by work2future, Silicon Valley's Workforce Investment Board with funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

“This partnership addresses the need to train and offer job placement in a field that meets the demand here in Silicon Valley,” said Carol Coen, executive director of the Workforce Institute. “We are proud to provide the pathway for women and men who plan to pursue green careers as highly skilled roofers.”

Cindy Chavez, executive director of Working Partnerships USA, said, “The Apprentice Roofers Readiness Program is an important step toward ensuring that all workers are able to reap the rewards of the coming green economy – well-paid jobs, full benefits and viable career paths.”

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The program aims to provide students with an accurate picture of the industry as a means of cutting the high drop-out rate for roofing apprentices and to connect them with potential employers. It is targeted at low-income, disadvantaged and unemployed residents of Santa Clara County ages 18 and up at a time of demographic transition in the construction industry. The current workforce is aging, with many members on the verge of retirement, at a time when there is growing demand for green building, energy efficiency, and new building technologies. At full rollout, the program is designed to expand beyond roofing to produce up to 350 workers for green building and construction trades, to enhance their skills so they can move up career ladders and to serve as a model for similar programs across the nation.

Said Jeff Ruster, executive director of work2future, "We are excited to launch this new program that will benefit both jobseekers and employers by providing the preparation needed to be successful on the job."

"What makes this program unique is the way it prepares students to enter the trades, gives them a taste of the work experience and leads directly to job placement," said Neil Struthers, CEO of the Santa Clara and San Benito Counties Building & Construction Trades Council.

The Apprentice Roofers Readiness Program is a joint effort of the Workforce Institute at the San José / Evergreen Community College District; Working Partnerships USA; work2future, Silicon Valley's Workforce Investment Board; Roofers and Waterproofers Local 95 Journeylevel and Apprenticeship Training Program; the Building & Construction Trades Council of Santa Clara & San Benito Counties; and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 332 / Electrical JATC.

- What:** Apprentice Roofers Readiness Program
(initial class of 35 aspiring roofers)
- When:** Monday-Friday, May 17-21
(Tuesday and Wednesday, May 18 and 19 offer the best active video and photo opportunities of students in real workplace settings)
- Where:** Santa Clara County Electrical JATC
 908 Bern Court
 San José
(off Oakland Road near San Jose Municipal Golf Course)

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