



THE OJT CONNECTOR

Your Road to Success

VOLUME 4

SPOTLIGHT ON SEATTLE’S APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAMS

In an effort to bring more attention to apprenticeship in the Puget Sound area, the City of Seattle recently helped to provide an opportunity for officials and community members to tour four of the pre-apprenticeship preparation

“It was great to see agency partners, labor, industry, and the community all working together to provide opportunities for young people looking for careers in construction.” Roger Millar, Acting Secretary of Transportation

Nancy Locke, Director of the City of Seattle Purchasing and Contracting Services hosted the first Pre-Apprenticeship Spring Tour Series, inviting City Council members, public agencies and community leaders, including WSDOT Acting Secretary of Transportation, Roger Millar and Office of Equal Opportunity Director Earl Key.

A different program was toured each week. These programs that are recognized by the Washington State Apprenticeship Training Council and supported by the City of Seattle include Seattle Vocational Institute’s Pre-Apprentice Construction Training program, Youth Care’s YouthBuild, and the Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Employment for Women program.

The students were proud to show their skills in the trades and share their success stories. When asked how their current situation compares to where they were in their lives one year ago, most of them said they had little or no hope of a stable career to sustain their future or families, but joining the apprenticeship programs has provided them with a brighter outlook for their future.

This event is part of the city’s multiple efforts to establish the construction worker diversity initiative that is part of the City of Seattle Priority Hire ordinance, which requires prime contractors to hire works from priority zip codes and neighborhoods of minorities and females with high unemployment on the city’s public work projects. Part of this effort includes recruiting and training individuals into programs that prepare them for work in construction. The city has to date, funded \$962,000 in support of training and outreach efforts towards building the construction pipeline.

The first project labor agreement was implemented on the seawall project in collaboration with the state and local construction trade labor unions. The city of Seattle is now applying the labor agreements to all city public works over \$5 million in construction value, subject to USDOT approval where funding requires.





YOUTHBUILD SPOKANE GRADUATION MEET NOELLE MANUSIA



Noelle Manusia came to the YouthBuild program, a Department of Labor funded work training program for young adults aged 18-24, in October of 2015, joining Cohort 18. "I had

been home-schooled and found it difficult to move forward with my education and career development without a GED or High School Diploma." Noelle had been working on her GED with Instructor Shawn Wash and getting employment assistance from Stacey Wells, with Goodwill Industries, at the Next Generation Zone, when her GED instructor made her aware of the YouthBuild program.

YouthBuild Spokane has both a construction track and a health care track. Noelle decided on the construction track, as it was a chance to help build a better community and she had some prior construction experience with over 200 hours with Habitat for Humanity.

While in the program, she toured multiple apprenticeships, including the Ironworkers, Steam and Pipefitters and Laborers. She also gained hands-on work experience, working at sites in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and the Lands Council. She ultimately earned her GED and then went on to earn the highest score ever achieved at the Spokane HomeBuilders Association, on the

Residential Construction Academy's Basic Principles of Construction test.

"Youthbuild is a place where young people are introduced to the strengths within themselves, and an opportunity to become the next generation of community leaders. Noelle Manusia is the perfect example of a YouthBuild student who has transformed her life through education, Leadership development, construction of affordable housing, and service to her community."

Says Kim Waseca-Love, Spokane Home Builders Association director.

Upon graduating from the program, Noelle began Spring classes at Spokane Community College. Based on the lasting impression and progress she has made, Noelle was selected by Goodwill Industries to represent her region and have the opportunity to share her story at the Goodwill Industries International Advocacy event in Washington DC. "It was pretty cool. It was my first time on a plane. I had the opportunity to share my story with Representative Raul Labrador and Senator Maria Cantwell".

"I've learned that I am capable of learning anything, but I can't do it alone"



For more information, contact Manda Edwards,

Programs Manager at Youthbuild Spokane, medwards@esd101.net (509) 789-3702



MAGIC CAMP 2016 Tech Skill Center

This year's MAGIC Camp was held May 5-8 at the Tri-Teck Skills Center in Kennewick. MAGIC offers real hands-on opportunities to learn the basics of safety, carpentry, electrical, painting, plumbing, concrete and welding. The young ladies build planter boxes, concrete stepping stones, a metal bird house, weld a yard flower together, learn how to bend copper piping, operate a backhoe simulator, wire a doorbell or a light switch and assemble a lamp.

What skills do the participants learn and how can they later apply those skills in real life?

Provides a supportive and nurturing environment for girls to explore and develop basic skills in the areas of carpentry, electrical, and welding/cutting.

- Offers girls a gender-neutral environment to learn and practice new skills without fear of being teased.
- Develops greater self-confidence for girls who tackle challenging projects and successfully complete them.
- Develops a safety-first attitude and 'we can do it' mindset via the safety and history of women in construction seminars on the opening day of camp.
- Introduces girls to women role models who have achieved success in all areas of construction and Introduces students to valuable college and trades women scholarship information.



What are the biggest obstacles facing women entering the field of construction or manufacturing?

For some it is the outside world's perception of what women should do. For those with children, sometimes it is the schedule or the distance to the job location. Our goal with MAGIC is to help younger women see the opportunities early and to get through the training before life gets more complicated and factors arise that can impact their ability to be successful

For more information about MAGIC Camp contact Aimee Bergeson at Aimeeb@fowlergc.com, or at (509) 578-1556



PIZZA, POP & POWER TOOLS



Ninety-six 8th grade girls from Kalama, Toutle, Woodland and Longview attended Pizza, Pop and Power Tools at Lower Columbia College. They experienced the trades including electrical safety with the PUD, welding, construction, firefighting, and more.

The 8th grade girls were offered an opportunity to try hands-on Professional/Technical activities taught by local industry professionals including PUD, WSDOT, Rightline Equipment, Gibbs & Olson, Cowlitz 2 Fire Department, LCC Automotive Club, Mason Shawn Lenczowski, LCC's Diesel Program, Habitat for Humanity and NWLETT.

Students were offered the following activities: masonry, operating a compactor, electrical safety, welding, constructing a utility shed, building a birdhouse, Firefighting equipment, operating an excavator, changing a tire, water filtration and repairing a waterline, and experiencing WSDOT machinery. Even with rain and wind, the event was energizing for both students and volunteers. The girls never seemed to run out of activities that they wanted to try and they said how much fun it was to learn about these careers.

The plan is to continue this event yearly and expand participation to 7th grade girls as well.



The girls had a tire changing competition and learned about building with Habitat for Humanity.

**For more information Contact Rosie Leno, Career Path Manager, Lower Columbia College
(360) 442-2610 / rleno@lowercolumbia.edu**

Try-A-Trade Event

On May 5th, The New Market Skills Center in Tumwater hosted a very successful Try-A-Trade Event. The goal was to share the vision of the program and the school as a whole.

The event attracted 25 schools, over 400 students, and 12 industry partners who volunteered both money and time to inspire students to consider the

trades as an alternative career option. WSDOT, Lakeside industries, Snell cranes, Northwest Laborers Employers Training, Operating Engineers Regional Training, Carpenter Training, Trust fund of WA & Idaho took part in the event.

The turnout was overwhelmingly positive and visitors were excited about what the campus has to offer.

The impact on the school was also great as the current students were given a sense of pride.

“I have heard many different times that this was one of the best events in the state this year!” Adam Shell, Instructor, New Market Skills Center

**For more information about the New Market Skills Center, contact Adam Shell
adam.shell@newmarketskills.com/360-570-4500**

NICOLE PEONE: Another Tulalip TERO Vocational Training Center (TVTC) Success Story



Originally from Eastern Washington, Nicole Peone was looking for work when she heard about TVTC. Leaving her kids behind with family, she joined the program in 2015 and despite her long 2 hour commute, she has been committed to the program, knowing she has something to look forward to.

From the first day in training, she was introduced to various trades like carpentry (her favorite), masonry, iron workers, glazers, heat and frost, plasters, roofers, cement mason and many other trades. "I love learning new things, meeting new people. Everyone is like a big family here, with Lisa, the family career navigator, Mark, the instructor, and Billy, the instructor's assistant working hard to make sure we succeed."

After graduation Nicole is planning on getting her bachelor's program in safety inspection. My kids are proud of me; they see me do something I absolutely love. I've been selling my friends on this program, trying to turn them away from dead end jobs. This is worth every sacrifice I've made."

On graduation day, we met Nicole's grand-father, Johnny Bastian, Quinault tribal elder and ex compliance officer for the TERO Quinault tribe. The very proud grandfather in his speech advised the students: "Look to your elders for guidance and once you get in that Union, stay in it!"

Nicole pictured with her daughter and Grandfather Johnny Bastian, Quinault Tribal Elder and former Quinault TERO Compliance Officer

