

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 27, 2015

Latino Academy of Workforce Development Announces Summer Construction Training Program

MADISON—The Latino Academy of Workforce Development has partnered with Stevens Construction Corp. of Madison, Wisconsin to offer a comprehensive construction training program to 15 individuals. These 15 community members are invited to participate in the Bilingual Construction Training Program, which will span 3 weeks and will include 75 hours of job skills training. The program will begin on Monday, June 15 and will conclude Friday, July 3.

Participants in the Bilingual Construction Program will begin on Monday, June 15 and will receive training integral toward pursuing a career in the construction industry. Throughout the training, students will learn valuable workplace skills and certifications, including: OSHA 10, Fall Protection and Training Certificate, CPR and AED Certification. Participants will also achieve a basic knowledge of the following job site skills: general welding, carpentry, and blueprint reading. At the end of the three weeks, students will be considered for employment with Stevens Construction Corp after .

The program uses an industry-recognized approach in training individuals to develop construction craft skills, combining classroom instruction and hands-on training on a job site. Contextual learning specific to construction trades, safety, construction math and measurements, and hand and power tools are part of the curriculum. Participants earn industry-approved certifications and also develop work readiness skills needed for entry-level employment or apprenticeships in the industry. This training program is available at no cost for eligible participants.

The Latino Academy of Workforce Development graduated its first class of Bilingual Construction Program students in May, 2015. 25 students completed the 16-week, 128 hour program, and graduated prepared and ready for a career in the construction industry.

The Latino Academy is a partner of the Construction Employment Initiative (CEI). The Construction Employment Initiative consists of three City of Madison-supported construction training programs including YWCA's Construct-U, Foundations for the Trades Academy and the Latino Academy Bilingual Construction Program. The CEI programs align with the City of Madison's initiative to increase career opportunities in the construction industry for low-income and disenfranchised individuals.

Partners for the program include Construction Training, Inc.'s START program, Latino Academy of Workforce Development, Operation Fresh Start, Urban League of Greater Madison, Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin, WorkSmart Network and the YWCA. Funding sources for the program include the City of Madison, the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and the Wisconsin Fast Forward initiative.

--MORE --

About the Latino Academy of Workforce Development

The Latino Academy of Workforce Development (LAWD) is a culturally competent, bilingual adult education and employment program of Vera Court Neighborhood Center, Inc. (VCNC). The Latino Academy of Workforce Development's primary goal is to create of a safe, culturally competent space that empowers Latino adults to succeed and integrate into the economic and educational systems of Dane County. LAWD's unique 'education through community' approach works closely with students, responds to the community's education and employment needs quickly, and creates pathways to improved education and employment for the Latino community. This approach has demonstrated tremendous results within the initiative's first four years, growing from a small offering of language and job skills classes initially, to a community of over 800 learners participating in, job skills training, GED and pre-GED classes, language courses, computer classes, business and employment development. As an emergent leader in bilingual training and education, LAWD is a vital resource both for its students and the broader Madison community's effort to create economic opportunity for all of its members.

Media Contact

Baltazar De Anda-Santana
Latino Academy of Workforce Development
Director
baltazar@latinoacademywi.org

Jennifer Johnson
Latino Academy of Workforce Development
Employment and Career Pathways Specialist
jennifer@latinoacademywi.org

###