

THE GREENING OF REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP IN FLORIDA

Impact of Green Jobs on Registered Apprenticeship

Green Seminar Minutes
Orlando
Orlando-Mid Florida Tech Campus
December 9, 2010

The Greening of Registered Apprenticeship in Florida

This is the sixth of a series of green workshops being held around the state to identify the progress being made in the “greening” of Florida apprenticeship programs.

The following individuals representing various government, industry, construction and affiliations in the Orlando area attended the workshop:

Green Apprenticeship Guest List

Name	Organization
Mary Jane Mueller	MAF/CF Apprenticeship
Jamie Fugate	FEAT
Chris Bright	ACCA/CF Apprenticeship
Steve Pirolli	FEAT
Kathy Roberts	Lake Tech – Early Childhood
Andy White	Blue Chip Energy
Ben Schmitz	Boca/DOE
Londra Mead	ACCA/CF APPR
Nancy Merced	ACT

This session was organized by Steve Lindas, Department of Education / Apprenticeship Section / Region 4 Representative.

Introduction to Apprenticeship and the Green Initiative

Pat McLaughlin, Facilitator, began the meeting explaining what apprenticeship is and how it benefits workforce systems and employees. McLaughlin then described the meaning of the “green economy”. For many of this session’s participants, this was their first foray into the green movement. This was an awareness session for them, an opportunity to learn about the green initiatives within the construction and “green” industries.

The green economy is rooted in the development and use of products and services that promote environmental protection and energy security. This is comprised of industries and businesses engaged in:

- Energy efficiency
- Renewal energy

- Preventing and reducing pollution
- Mitigating or cleaning up pollution

There really isn't a separate "green economy" with its own set of industries and occupations. Instead, we have one economy that is becoming greener. Markets may be responding well to consumer demand for more environmentally friendly products and services.

Our state government has also jumped on the green initiative bandwagon. Several governmental bills currently focus on green job training and development:

Green Job Training (Sec. 422) – This bill increases funding authorization for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program.

Green Construction Careers Demonstration Project (Sec. 424A) – This bill directs the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to establish a Green Construction Careers demonstration project "to promote middle class careers and quality employment practices in the green construction sector."

Clearinghouse for Vocational Education and Job Training in Renewable Energy Sectors (Sec. 423) – This bill directs the Secretary of Labor, in collaboration with the Secretaries of Energy and Education, to establish a publicly available web-based information and resources clearinghouse.

Clean Energy Curriculum Development Grants (Sec. 421) – This bill authorizes the Secretary of Education to award competitive grants to partnerships for the creation of green curricula.

Low Income Community Energy Efficiency Program (Sec. 264) – This bill authorizes \$50 million for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2015 for a competitive grant program.

McLaughlin then introduced the group to the NCCER – the National Center for Construction Education and Research.

NCCER and the Green Initiative

McLaughlin reviewed a presentation from the NCCER – the National Center for Construction Education and Research. NCCER is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization affiliated with the University of Florida. It is the leading source of workforce development resources for the construction, maintenance and pipeline industries.

The presentation notes that green jobs will bolster employment in the near future, especially in the construction and manufacturing arenas. Construction employment has fallen from 8M to 7.2M over the past two years due to the housing bubble collapse. The Green Recovery program can, at the least, bring back these lost 800,000 construction jobs. Green investment not only creates better jobs garnering higher wages, but more jobs overall distributed broadly across the economy.

SOURCE: www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/green_recovery.html

This research also indicates that the following jobs will be required to build this U.S. green economy:

1. Carpenters
2. Heavy Equipment Operators
3. Construction Managers (2)
4. Electricians (3)
5. HVAC
6. Industrial Machinery Mechanics
7. Industrial Truck Drivers (3)
8. Insulation Workers
9. Iron & Steel Workers
10. Metal Fabricators (3)
11. Millwrights
12. Roofers
13. Sheet Metal Workers

SOURCE: www.greenjobsnow.com/hq/Excerpt-Green-Jobs-PERI.pdf

The six energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies being researched include:

1. Retrofitting buildings to increase energy efficiency
2. Expanding mass transit & freight rail
3. Constructing “smart” electrical grid transmission systems
4. Wind power
5. Solar power
6. Advanced biofuels

SOURCE: www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/green_recovery.html

You may read more about these exciting breakthroughs in the NCCER presentation provided at the end of this report.

McLaughlin then posed the following questions to the group:

- What are Florida Registered Apprenticeships doing now?
- What are Florida Registered Apprenticeships planning to do?
- What can the Registration Agency do to assist Your Programs?

As previously mentioned, this session was basically an introduction of the green movement in general, so there was not a lot of discussion from the participants regarding the aforementioned questions. However, one participant, Andrew White, General Services Manager for Blue Chip Energy, gave a compelling description of the “photo voltaic” (PV) system he is currently involved with. White, a professional electrician, is working with a company in Lake Mercer to create a business to provide the PV systems. This green session intrigued him, as he has experienced first-hand the importance of bringing the trades together to accomplish green initiatives. He is challenged with bringing together roofers, electricians, and plumbers to support PV installation in the commercial and residential construction industry in Florida. White reiterated the difficulty of implementing green first lies with green training in the construction

trades. It is difficult to train people on the technology. It incorporates three of the construction trades – electrical, plumbing and roofing.

He told an engaging story of the first time he had to cut a hole in the roof of a building. That was a scary occurrence, as he had to learn about roofing, something he knew nothing about. A lot of cross-training among the various construction trades will be required to get the green initiative on a proper footing.

Conclusion

The participants expressed appreciation for this introduction to the green movement, and all recognized the two key areas as being the environment and energy savings. It is evident that there are a lot of opportunities yet to be tapped within the Orlando area. Jamie Fugate summed the session up with her comment: “I sure did learn a lot at this seminar.” The key theme was to raise awareness of the green movement – and that was definitely accomplished.

Patrick McLaughlin encouraged participants to research websites on “green construction” for more information, and to please note the website links to banner green centers in Florida that are listed in the handout. One important link is: www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/education/banner/links.htm. In addition the Solar Energy Center is located at www.fsec.ucf.edu.en.

Future sessions to discuss the green initiative are planned for:

March 10, 2011	Port. St. Lucie
June 9, 2011	Ft. Lauderdale.

The final report will be completed by June 30, 2011. As we build this program, information will be provided; check our website. There will be lots of opportunities.
The slides for today’s session will be emailed to all participants.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick McLaughlin
McLaughlin Management Associates, Inc.
Boca Raton, Florida
Pat@mmainc.us