

Partnership Update

LECET INNOVATIONS

QUALITY PARTNERING FOR SUCCESS



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NCCI Training Program Included in Indian Country Stimulus Package Submission

By Pat Smutz, Communications Director, NW LECET

The Native Construction Careers Initiative (NCCI) program is being used as a model example before Congress as lawmakers start taking stock of what they need to put together for President Obama's Economic Stimulus Package, a move that will pump up to \$800 Billion into the economy. The jumpstart-styled program is said to be not only the biggest of its kind, it will also have a huge training component to train people to go to work fast. Infrastructure projects from Highway, Bridge and Building construction are what Obama calls "shovel-ready" and they are being considered to be top priorities for funding. Many legislators are citing a necessity of speed to help undo the massive

unemployment caused by the sad state of the US economy.

"On my last visit to Washington, DC I found that many members of Congress and their staff have reacted favorably to the Indian Country Economic Stimulus program, and have told us they love the results of the NCCI program" said Ed Hensley, LIUNA Construction Market Representative and NCCI Co-Founder recently. "There is a huge amount of opportunity for Indian Country because of the many much-need infrastructure projects that are ready to start, and they like that too. We have a ton of shovel-ready projects on reservations and I think a lot of them will be funded."

The NCCI coalition, which includes the Council for Tribal Employment Rights (CTER) and the Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA), are in the process of completing the final phase of its second of 3 demonstration projects under an inter-agency agreement with the US Department of Interior, Indian Energy and Economic Development division. The Public Law 102-477 program has been instrumental in speeding up the process of getting training dollars to tribes and the above-mentioned demonstration project has been illustrated as one that can take place fast and deliver an amazing level (i.e. 92%)

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CTER Legal Update Conference Lauds LIUNA for Partnership

Though the Laborers Union has been accepted and successfully involved in Indian country for a long time, the CTER 2008 Legal Update Conference demonstrated how well the Laborers are being accepted and thought of as partners at reservation after reservation.

"I have known Ed Hensley for many years and have always worked closely with him towards things that helped our people" said Conrad Edward, CEO for CTER. "He is a man of his word and he delivers on his promises. The NCCI program is one of the very best programs I've ever seen hit Indian Country and Ed Hensley worked hard with us to make this happen."

The overwhelming nod of approval for the Native Construction Careers Initiative was brought to focus even more than one could have thought after a Training Specialist for the Spirit Lake Nation took the podium. In an impassioned and heartfelt speech, without using notes, Frank Delapaz told the standing-room-only crowd, that the NCCI endeavor on his reservation actually was the very best

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NCCI Ramps Up to Commercial Renovation with Green Emphasis

New program modules train tribal members to implement tribe's own program

Starting out as a residential remodel and repair training and entrepreneurship program, the NCCI program has phased in a commercial construction aspect of its training. Due to the huge availability of tribal infrastructure buildings in bad need of renovation and repair, the NCCI program adapted itself to take the next step in construction career training and started delivering its commercial training during the second demonstration program in Spirit Lake, ND.

The NCCI partners have put together two new modules that complement both the commercial and residential training aspects; 1) Train the Trainer: An effort to put more tribal members into construction career instructor positions. The tribe's selection of an NCCI verified instructor will be mentored through the whole 300 hour class as a project/class supervisor. On completion of the module, the new instructor will be tested and certified by NCCI to instruct. 2) Coordinator Mentoring: Designed to train and break-in the participating tribe's designee to become an on-site coordinator. This very important program position will be utilized to insure the tribe's new on-site coordinator will learn all the aspects of inter-

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Ed Hensley, Construction Market Representative, LECET
12210 Tukwilla Intl. Blvd. #145 Seattle, WA 98367
Phone: (253) 209-7344

PARTNERSHIP UPDATE

LEGAL UPDATE: CTER Legal Update Conference Praises LIUNA Partnership

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program he had ever seen in his life and that it should be adopted by every tribe that wants to see success in training their members for jobs that will support them and their families.

“I’m glad our program has been such a success. I’m being asked by almost everyone here as to how they can get a NCCI training program on their reservation” said Ed Hensley, LIUNA Construction Market Representative. “While I’m working on the program at a reservation I’m also working on developing a long-term relationship between the tribe and LIUNA. I just want people to know that there are a lot of union opportunities out there and union jobs and benefits are of the best. We (unions and tribes) have a lot of common goals for our respective members and the partnerships are beginning to address those goals.”



Commercial Building being renovated by NCCI class at Spirit Lake, ND



Trainee at Blackfeet Nation, Browning, MT learns how make counter tops for Housing renovations

STIMULUS PACKAGE: Indian Country has opportunity to gain training and infrastructure

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of participant training/job finding success in the construction industry. “We have an opportunity to not only give tribal members a meaningful career and boost towards starting their own companies, but we also have the opportunity to bring in the biggest wave of solid training programs we have ever seen” said Conrad Edwards, CEO for CTER and a Co-Founder of NCCI.

GREEN EMPHASIS: NCCI Adds New Elements to Program

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agency coordination between NCCI training entities and the tribe’s Housing, TERO, JOBS and other involved agencies.

The new training modules will also be used in the next phase of the new commercial aspect of construction training with an emphasis on Green Building. Using LIUNA delivered demolition techniques such as deconstruction and material recycling, trainees are being taught to preserve as much of the old building parts that can be re-used or sold at a surplus auction and they are also being taught how to separate metals, glass, wood, fiberglass, etc. for delivery to recycling centers.



Trainee learns mudding techniques in NCCI class at Spirit Lake, ND

CHANGING LIVES



BUILDING FUTURES