

Worcester Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Program

Program Update

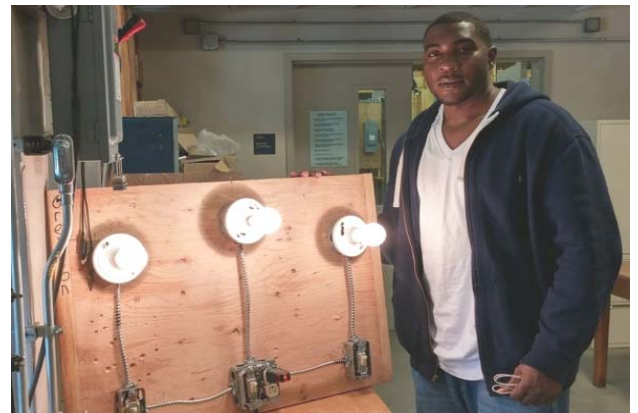
"I like to represent women in this kind of career, it feels empowering to know I'm a female welder."

—Cycle 1 Building Pathways Participant



SETTING A FOUNDATION FOR FUTURE SUCCESS

The first cycle of Worcester Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Program started on June 20th and is setting the tone for future cycles. The participants started training in areas such as tools of the trade, construction math, blueprint reading, and labor history. Many guest speakers have addressed the class on topics including "My Career in the Trades", Apprenticeship Standards, Worker's Rights, Women in Construction, and Labor History. Participants have also started hands-on projects with apprenticeship trainers from several local unions and are excited to be visiting many more locations before the end of the program on August 12th. It has been a great start to the promising new program!



CONNECTING LOCAL PEOPLE WITH GOOD JOBS

The Worcester Building Pathways Pre-Apprenticeship Program has been developed through efforts by the Worcester Jobs Fund (WJF). The WJF works to ensure that development projects and job expansion efforts in Worcester bring a direct benefit to Worcester residents in the form of jobs, job training, and related services by creating a system that better prepares and connects Worcester residents with living-wage employment. Funding has been secured from the City of Worcester, the MA Department of Transportation, and the

state budget in order to complete two, 10-participant Worcester Building Pathways cohorts by June 2017.

The work of the Worcester Jobs Fund is guided by an oversight committee that includes representatives from The Worcester Regional Chamber of Commerce, Central MA Workforce Investment Board, Workforce Central Career Center, Worcester Community Labor Coalition and Worcester Public Schools.