



Workforce Development, Inc. *Building Carpenters Carpentry Training Program*



Workforce Development, Inc. (WDI) has a number of career pathways in various stages of implementation. One career pathway currently in progress is the **Building Carpenters Carpentry Training Program**, offered in partnership with the Carpenter's Union. We are excited that the first cohort is showing great promise. Eighteen students started the program, with two of those students leaving in the first week. After completing the first two weeks of Essential Skills training at WDI in Rochester, those same sixteen students transitioned to the Rochester North

Central States Training Center to begin the next five weeks of training focused on carpentry skills.

The Essential Skills training began Monday, January 29, ended Friday, February 9, and was taught by Jim Althoff, WDI YouthBuild Coordinator/Instructor. The Carpentry Training, which is taught by experienced union carpenters, began



Monday, February 12 and will run five weeks, finishing Friday, March 16th. At this time, fifteen students are expected to graduate Thursday, March 15. The last day of class students will have an opportunity to meet, and interview, with local union contractors. One goal of this program has been to give persons from barriered populations access to a short-term training for a high-demand career that pays a family-sustaining wage. A second goal is to provide skilled employees to contractors who have been having a difficult time finding both the quality and quantity of labor they need in order to complete their projects.

Going forward, WDI and the Carpenter's Union plan to offer this training again, probably sometime during late spring/summer. Additionally we are working with the Laborer' Union to offer a similar training; giving students the training and skills they would need in order to become employed in the horizontal or vertical building arena. To support these future trainings, WDI has applied for a Pathways to Prosperity grant as well as a grant through the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT). Part of those monies would be used to hire a Trades Career Navigator to help facilitate and expand this program in the future.

