

The Portland Observer 1994

Careers

SECTION
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Training Women In Building Trades



From L to R: Judy Joni, Donna Ainsworth, and Wendy Gonzales. Judy Joni, I.E.C.O. Representative, and Donna Ainsworth present the Donna Ainsworth Award to Wendy Gonzales, B-Fit 1994 Graduate. Donna Ainsworth is the first B-Fit graduate who obtained journey level status through IEEO. IEEO traditionally awards a scholarship to an outstanding student from each B-Fit class.

A program for training women in building trades referred to as B-Fit (Building Futures in Industry) offered at the Rock Creek campus of Portland Community College won an award from Labor Investing For To-

morrow (LIFT) America Awards. The following excerpt is taken from The Wall Street Journal: "The awards called LIFT America are given to employers, unions educational organizations and

communities to recognize "creative solutions" for upgrading the quality of the work force. Sixteen winners were chosen from 500 nominees; they run the gamut from local vocational programs to industrial grants.

Several other award winners also stress efforts to improve opportunities for women and minorities. Building Future in Industry and Trades, a program run by Portland Community College in Oregon, is a "fast track" six month training course designed to put women on paths for such non-traditional skilled careers as electri-

cians, plumbers, carpenters and sheet-metal workers in jobs that pay \$15 to \$25 an hour. Previously, women weren't striving toward such jobs, program officials say. Many women students, whose average age is 36, were working in low-paid jobs -- such as in fast-food restaurants -- when they entered the program. About 35% were unemployed and on welfare; 70% were single heads of household.

The program fills women's "skill gaps" through immersion courses in everything from learning how to wire electrical projects to a physical fitness program to career planning. The women build a house from the foundation up, do upper-body training, and even hear from sex-discrimination attorneys on how to file a complaint if a problem arises.

Katharine Settle says she entered the program because "my husband had just recently left after 34 years of marriage, and I found myself thinking about what I was going to do for a living." Though she hadn't had a job in 26 years she thought the training program would help her acquire skills to be a residential construction contractor and thus make use of experience already gained while helping to build and renovate houses with her former husband. She's now pursuing an associate degree in building construction technology and says the training program was "invaluable" in helping her reach her goals.

B-Fit is a two-term certificate program which gives students a unique hands-on experience in many of the basic skills required to enter an apprenticeship training program or other skilled non-traditional jobs in industry.

For more information call: Portland Community College at 244-6111 ext. 7449.

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B-FIT PROGRAM

RECRUITING FOR 1994 FALL TERM

B-Fit: A two-term certificate program which gives female and minority students a unique hands-on experience in many of the basic skills required to enter an apprenticeship training program or other skilled non-traditional jobs in industry. Program focuses on the construction and electrical and mechanical trades.

You will receive two terms of skills training on PCC's Rock Creek campus in the following areas:

- Trades Basic Skills
- Construction Basic Skills
- Electrical/Mechanical Basic Skills
- Trades Math
- Physical Strength Building
- CPR/First Aid/Safety in the Workplace
- Cooperative Ed/Worksite Training
- Job Search Skills Orientation



During the initial orientation session, you will learn about the B-Fit program and its services, be introduced to careers in the skilled trades, and explore job realities to determine if you wish to enter the training program.

EDUCATION TO WORK PROGRAM

The Education to Work Program is a cooperative effort between the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) and Portland Community College, designed to assist minorities and women in accessing pre-apprenticeship education and obtaining highway construction jobs. Information about scholarships for the 1994-95 academic year may be obtained by contacting:

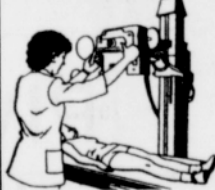
Jennice Taylor, Job Developer; 244-6111, ext 7473.
Classes begin Sept. 19, 1994.
Financial Aid Available; \$540.00 per term.

FOR ORIENTATION INFORMATION CONTACT:

Judy Campagna, B-Fit Instructor; 244-6111, ext-7475
Donna Adams, ext-7201.
Classes will be held on the Rock Creek Campus
17705 N. W. Springville Road; Portland, Oregon.

B-Fit is offered in cooperation with federal and state apprenticeship programs and private industry.

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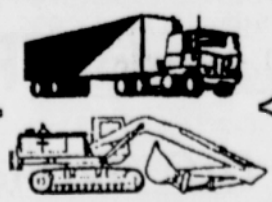
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