

Carpenters Construction Camp

Students earn money and learn trade skills

An eight week training program in carpentry construction has been a resounding success, with 20 "Class of 2008" students from Jefferson, Benson, Cleveland, Franklin, Grant, Madison, Marshall, Roosevelt and Meek high schools. The students participated in a multi-faceted presentation of various subjects and topics relating to the craft of carpentry, and the construction industry in general. This course was intended to be a prelude to a potential trade apprenticeship and possible employment

The objectives for this extensive course were achieved through classroom presentations lectures, lab demonstration and competency-based task performances, field trips, and onsite training and work experience with some of the best general contractors throughout the Portland-metro area.

The sessions were held at Willamette Carpenters Training, giving the students the same instruction that is provided for any apprentices at WCTC. They were paid while training as long as atten-

They were paid while training as long as attendance was maintained.

in the construction industry.

Initially, the students received instruction in basic first aid and CPR; workplace safety and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Also reviewed were ergonomics and proper material handling for construction equipment, and the safe and correct use of common hand tools used in the carpenters trade.

Subsequent subjects of study included the fundamentals of blueprint reading, applied mathematics for carpentry and the importance of safety in construction. Finally, the importance of good communication skills and work ethics were presented.

dance was maintained. All students were also provided with hard hats, safety glasses, boots and basic hand tools.

At the end of the eight-week course the students held a C-Camp dinner. The celebration with both students and parents provides an opportunity to reflect on what the experience has meant to them. Students received a certificate of completion along with contact information if they chose to apply for a carpentry apprenticeship after high-school graduation.

To participate in next year's construction camp, check in with your high school counselors or contact the WCTC office at 503-287-3708.



Benson High School's Earle Grier is an apprentice with Anderson Structures. The winner of the 2007 state "Skills America" competition in framing, he also competed in the nationals in Kansas City with the help of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Equality Begins with Female Body

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Trades and Apprenticeship Career Classes, scheduled to begin Sept. 4 and Oct. 30, are every other Thursday until Oct. 25 at the Cascade Campus of Portland Community College in the Tech Education Building, 565 N. Killingsworth, Room 218.

For more information, call 503-335-8200 or visit tradeswomen.net.


Apprenticeships and classes help women meet the physical demands of the job.



PHOTO BY RAYMOND RENDELMAN/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER



Portland, Oregon



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