

Training Provides Over 50 Local Building & Construction Companies with Green Skills

LAWRENCE & MERCER COUNTIES, PA – May 10, 2011 - Fifty-four Local Building and Construction professionals will receive certificates of completion for green training at a ceremony that will take place on Thursday, May 12th at 10:00 a.m. at the Training & Workforce Development Building in the LindenPointe Business Campus in Hermitage, PA. Six Hickory High School Students, who have partnered with the City of Hermitage to document the progress at LindenPointe will also be recognized.

The program, funded by the SkillUp: Building and Construction Industry Partnership of Lawrence and Mercer Counties, consisted of four two-hour classes: Green Building Fundamentals, Greenwash and Green Products, Certification and Labeling and Green Building Codes. The goal of the trainings were to give local contractors, construction forces and design professionals a better understanding of what “green” is, the LEED rating system, green products and trends and its impact on the Building & Construction Industry.

The series of green classes were instructed by the Green Building Alliance, a Pittsburgh based non-profit organization that seeks to integrate environmentally responsible design practices through education programs.

“This project has the added advantage of not only providing training that supports meaningful employment and business opportunities, but training that further enhances the quality of our environment, while saving considerable energy cost to the consumer and area businesses” said John Tkach, Program Manager of the SkillUp: Building and Construction Industry Partnership. “Underwritten by the PA Department of Labor and Industry, SkillUp is proud to partner on this important project with Green Building Alliance, the City of Hermitage and West Central Job Partnership.”

Some of the contractors who attended the training are working on the Technology Center of Excellence, which will serve as a business incubator and supportive resource to new and existing technology businesses in the Western Pennsylvania/Northeastern Ohio region and is meant to assist in growth of job and economic growth opportunities in the region. The 16,000 square foot Tech Center, which is Mercer County's first planned LEED certified building, will be completed this summer. LEED stands for Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design, a rating system which uses a 100-point scale to rate a building's environmental friendliness.

The training was held at the Tech Center's sister facility at LindenPointe, the Training and Workforce Development Center. Paul Young, facility coordinator, said "We at the TWDC were pleased to host these four training sessions as their content reflects the very essence of our mission: to bring innovative, cutting-edge ideas to local industry partners that enhances their competitive skills and thus, potentially, gives the region's economy a boost." The LindenPointe Campus and the Tech Center are part of the Oh-Penn Interstate Region Initiative, which promotes strategies to enhance economic and workforce development within the five counties of Lawrence and Mercer in Pennsylvania and Columbiana, Mahoning and Trumbull in Ohio.

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