

# THE GREENING OF REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP IN FLORIDA

## *Impact of Green Jobs on Registered Apprenticeship*

Green Seminar Minutes  
Miami Lakes  
Miami Lakes Education Center

September 23, 2010

### **The Greening of Registered Apprenticeship in Florida**

This is the fifth of a series of green workshops being held around the state to identify the progress being made in the “greening” of Florida apprenticeship programs.

The following individuals representing various government and industry construction and affiliations in the Miami area attended the workshop:

#### **Green Apprenticeship Guest List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Lewis T. Gee	Advanced Education Apprenticeship Training, Inc
John Simmons	Florida East Coast Electrical Joint Apprenticeship
John McHugh	Miami Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training
Laura Springer	Miami Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training
Phil Rodin	Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Pipefitting Education Ctr.
Melissa King	Step-Up Apprentice Programs
Dave Browning	Atlantic Vocational Technical
Mary Jane Mueller	Florida Masonry Apprentice & Educational Foundation
Sophia Hall	Turner Adult Technical High School

Pat McLaughlin, Facilitator, began the meeting explaining what apprenticeship is and how it benefits workforce systems and employees. McLaughlin then described the meaning of the “green economy. The green economy is rooted in the development and use of products and services that promote environmental protection and energy security. This is comprised of industries and businesses engaged in:

- Energy efficiency
- Renewal energy
- Preventing and reducing pollution
- Mitigating or cleaning up pollution

There really isn't a separate "green economy" with its own set of industries and occupations. Instead, we have one economy that is becoming greener. Markets may be responding well to consumer demand for more environmentally friendly products and services.

The remainder of the meeting focused on green job training and development – what is currently happening and what needs to happen in the near future.

### ***What are Florida Registered Apprenticeships doing now?***

**“What are you doing now in the Florida Registered Apprenticeships to promote green initiatives? What are some examples?”**

The group responded with the following:

#### **Use of EPA Standard Refrigerants**

- We are switching to new recyclable refrigerants as required by the EPA. As of January 2011, the older refrigerants will not be produced. The pressures and temperatures on the newer refrigerants are different, higher and more dangerous, and require training. Even the older mechanics are coming to our facility to be trained.
- We live in a humid environment that produces excess condensation. Especially on commercial buildings, this water is basically wasted as we continue to throw city water on top of the condensation. Now the condensation is being recycled through a tower system. This is more efficient. We have always said in the cooling industry that the purpose is to take heat where it is objectionable and put it where it is unobjectionable. Recycling prevents throwing good water down the drain.

#### **Installation of Solar Power**

- The workforce training programs out of Lee and Henry Counties are training approximately 50 people in Solar Voltaic (electrical trade.)
- In northeast Florida electricians let the roofers put the solar units on. However, the electricians need to do all the hook-ups.
- In Lee and Henry Counties, tradesmen are trained to install solar panels both structurally and electrically.
- With solar power, it is no longer necessary to turn off the A/C during the day; it is best to leave on so the house does not heat up, keeping the unit cool all day.
- With solar, installation must be done correctly to meet standards and remain efficient.
- The new solar equipment requires additional training to ensure correct installation.

#### **Frequency Jobs**

- You used to hear a “banging” in ductwork, due to the horsepower speed. This no longer happens, as changes in horsepower speed are not required to dehumidify the air.

- New equipment looks at speed inside and out, and synchronizes them. This is especially useful in commercial buildings.
- This equipment is expensive. Equipment installed two years ago is just now showing the payback; the payback does justify the cost.

### **Example of a “Green” Apprentice Program Funded by U.S. Dept of Labor**

Pat McLaughlin then showed the group an example of a current “green” apprentice program funded by the U.S. Department of Labor. He showed the forms and questions required to apply and then start a green program. You can take your current curriculum and tie it into a new green program.

The example featured a job description for an “Energy Auditor and Building Analyst.” This is a fully funded program under the U.S. Department of Labor. The example showed the curriculum with the qualifications and physical requirements for such a position. Curriculum specifics are listed: 90 hours for Construction; 30 hours for Safety; etc. The job description goes on to say you are to complete 3000 hours of apprentice training – on-the-job training.

Pat encouraged the group to take advantage of these new opportunities for the apprenticeship community. Now is the time to branch away from the traditional programs of HVAC, electrical, etc.

Teachers will have to be qualified to instruct in these new programs. For example, if you teach construction now and branch into information technology, perhaps you will go to the vocational technical school to secure such an instructor.

### **What Can Tallahassee Do to Assist You?**

The group was asked to make recommendations to take back to Tallahassee and individuals like Valvery Hillsman, DOE - Division of Career and Adult Education, South Florida Representative. What can registered apprenticeship do to fortify the green initiatives, especially in the areas of energy savings and environmental remediation?

This is the charter for the individuals like Valvery – to work together with industry apprenticeship programs to fortify the apprenticeship community.

### **Suggestions**

- Write a curriculum. Interview members of this group to ascertain requirements and design a curriculum.
- Assist with applying for grant dollars to promote the programs.
- Assist with knowing where to get grants – from what workforce.
- Provide dollars – always needed, especially in light of the shrinking economy.

There are 28 workforce boards in the state of Florida. Some members of this group felt it is difficult to get the support of the boards to secure grants. Patrick McLaughlin offered

encouragement to the group, telling them that state apprenticeship, others are developing relationships with the workforce community, and support is on the way.

Monies are available at the federal level; you just have to know where and how to get it.

Another issue encountered by apprenticeship programs is keeping the curricula, as well as equipment, up to date. Both cost money to maintain. Technical centers can help; \$30,000 was recently needed for equipment for the solar education programs.

Florida does have a great program on solar energy; we are the people to go to. We – electricians, structural workers, etc. – need to work together as a team.

One suggestion was to visit “Reconstruct FL.com.” Steve Lindas, State Apprenticeship Rep in Mid-Florida is promoting this website. It is a statewide job placement program for construction workers.

Banner schools in Florida are available for critical industries – everything from manufacturing to agriculture science. The banner school for construction is at Santa Fe Community College, located in Gainesville. Kurt Morauer is the Executive Director. The school is a resource for training. Indian River State College has programs in energy and homeland security. The group received handouts with information about the banner schools.

Patrick McLaughlin encouraged participants to research websites on “green construction” for more information.

The next session of this green initiative movement will be December 9 at Mid-Florida Tech in Orlando. Other sessions are planned for:

March 10, 2011	Port. St. Lucie
June 9, 2011	Ft. Lauderdale.

The final report will be completed by June 30, 2011. As we build this program, information will be provided; check our website. There will be lots of opportunities.

The slides for today’s session will be emailed to all participants.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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