

For Immediate Release

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## **NEW JERSEY'S LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR TO HELP HONOR GRADUATES OF CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM**

### ***Newark Construction Careers Program Helps Minorities Earn More in Construction Trades***

NEWARK – Eighteen amazing individuals will be celebrating their graduation from a nationally-recognized construction training program on Monday, April 15 – and New Jersey's Lieutenant Governor Kim Guadagno will be on hand to help recognize them.

The graduates are part of the Newark Construction Careers Program, which is new program building on the success of Newark/Essex Construction Careers Consortium (E/CCC). E/CCC was a nationally recognized pre-apprenticeship program through which nearly 400 urban minorities and women successfully gained the knowledge and skills required to enter the trade professions.

An independent evaluation of the program found that graduates experienced greater wage growth after completion of the training making \$5,000 more their first year out of the program with even higher wages the year after.

“During this moment of opportunity, New Jersey is standing shoulder to shoulder with NJISJ and the construction trades to build both a better state and a stronger workforce through this program.” said Cornell William Brooks, President and CEO at the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice, which provided training for the Newark/Essex Construction Career Consortium and the Newark Construction Careers Program.

Hopeful applicants are required to have a high school diploma or GED and have to pass a test before being accepted into the Newark Construction Careers Program.

After they pass the initial test, applicants go through a panel interview, and have to be screened for drug use. The program is rigorous – ten weeks, 240 hours.

The New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development oversees the development, funding and implementation of pre-apprenticeship programs.

In 2001, the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) helped form a consortium to create the Newark/Essex Construction Careers Consortium Pre-Apprenticeship Training program. Because of the success of that effort, the City of Newark reached out to NJISJ to run this spin-off training program.

The Newark/Essex Construction Careers Consortium Pre-Apprenticeship Training program umbrella, Newark Construction Careers is one of a series of workforce development programs supported by the NJSIJ. Other programs include: Metro Newark Brownfields Training Program, WomenBuild, and an upcoming Veteran-specific program.

The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice is a Newark-based urban research and advocacy organization dedicated to the advancement of New Jersey's urban areas and residents.

The Institute works to identify, analyze and address the underlying causes of social and economic disparities and to challenge the barriers that constrain cities and their residents from achieving their full potential. The Institute's programs are concentrated in several key areas that mirror the systematic challenges that constrain urban neighborhoods.

For more information, please call (973) 624-9400 or visit <http://www.njisj.org> on the Web.