



“Teacher’s Village” Developer Speaks at NJISJ Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Trades Training Program Graduation

NEWARK, NJ- October 26, 2012. The New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) held a graduation ceremony for its Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Trades Training Program on October 26, 2012 in the PSE&G Building in downtown Newark. During the ceremony, Ron Beit, the commencement speaker, addressed the eleven extraordinary graduates, who received certificates confirming their completion of this pre-apprenticeship program. Ron Beit is the Founding Partner and CEO of RBH Group, LLC, and President of RBH Management, LLC, asset and property management companies. Mr. Beit has acquired, developed, rehabilitated, and/or operated over 1 million square feet of existing commercial and residential real estate in numerous projects throughout the U.S., as well as over 6 million additional developable square feet in institutional grade sites throughout downtown Newark, NJ. Mr. Beit is the lead developer for the much acclaimed “Teacher’s Village,” which will consist of eight low-rise buildings clustered around the intersection of William and Halsey Streets, in Newark’s Four Corners historic district.

This graduation is particularly timely given the November 6th “Building Our Future” bond referendum that, if passed, would authorize \$750 million in State bonds to strengthen higher education facilities in a way that will provide immediate and long-term economic impact to our communities through additional jobs and a boost to the region’s technological infrastructure. Since 2010, NJISJ’s Workforce Development and Training staff has served nearly one thousand men and women from Newark and the greater Essex County area. Of that number, 400 have been connected to a construction union earning an average starting wage of \$14.35 per hour. NJISJ has been committed to providing opportunities for hard-to-employ New Jersey residents because we understand that this is an essential component of reviving our economy and stabilizing our urban regions.

Cornell William Brooks, Esq., the President and CEO of NJISJ, remarked that “Amidst an uneven, uncertain and unrealized recovery, this graduation is a first step through a doorway of opportunity for men and women willing to work. With construction on the rise, Prudential and the Port Authority are making critical investments in both rebuilding Newark and building a globally competitive workforce here at home. After 10 years and moving 400 people into higher wage construction work, this latest graduation means as much as the very first.”

This training program was made possible through a generous grant from the Prudential Foundation to run a pilot program to recruit and prepare local residents to qualify for registered construction trade apprenticeships or state approved construction training programs. This program provides participants



with academic preparation (applied math and critical thinking), employability skills, some financial literacy and comprehensive case management.

Albert Williams, who serves as NJISJ Director of Workforce Development and Training said “On this momentous occasion, we celebrate with these graduates— not just on today’s accomplishment— but on the bright future filled with opportunities that they have earned through their hard work and dedicated focus on the task at hand.”

For additional information, please contact Scott Nolen, Equal Justice and Communications Director, at 973-624-9400, ext. 32, or at snolen@njisj.org.

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