Tuolumne Construction Pre-Apprentice Training Program – program overview

The Tuolumne Construction Pre-Apprentice Training Program is a seven-week pre-apprenticeship designed for local residents to learn basic construction skills and earn multiple industry-recognized certificates. The training is organized through a collaboration of regional public agencies and community-based organizations. The most recent cohort completed training in April of 2019.

This pre-apprenticeship training program prepares individuals to enter the construction trades for work in the public and private construction industry, including San Francisco Public Utilities Commission infrastructure projects. This program invests resources into the regional community with the ultimate goal of developing a skilled union workforce who can continue to rebuild aging infrastructure.

The course outline integrates industry recognized certifications with hands on experience. During the first 4 weeks of the program, the cohort trainees spend a significant amount of time doing mock buildsups of framework and concrete forms at the training site, learning to use hand and power tools safely and effectively as well as how to read blueprints. Week 5 is spent building at the Tuolumne Habitat for Humanity housing development, week 6 is when trainees get their safety certifications, and in week 7 trainees wrap up curriculum, break down and clean up, do mock interviews with local businesses, and have a graduation celebration. During and after the program, the program coordinator works with trainees to identify where potential job or union opportunities match the participant’s skill and interests, and aids in creating a plan for applying and pursuing those positions.

Trainings provided include the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3) which is a classroom curriculum for pre-apprentice coursework. The safety certification trainings that are provided from the most recent cohort included first aid/CPR, OSHA10, confined space, and Gradall.

The program is made possible through a collaborative effort involving the San Joaquin County Office of Education, Tuolumne County Superintendent of Schools Office, Greater Valley Conservation Corps,
Habitat for Humanity, Tuolumne County Probation Department, Mother Lode Job Training, Northern California Carpenters Training Center, Laborers Joint Apprenticeship Council, the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission and other local community partners.

There have been four cycles of training offered through this collaborative effort. Participants from past trainings have had a very high rate of success; construction placements are 67% within three months of program completion and 85% overall placement of the four construction cohorts.