



# CISCO

## CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

Construction Industry Service Corporation - [www.cisco.org](http://www.cisco.org) - 630.472.9411 - Dan Allen, Executive Director

### PARTICIPATION REMAINS HIGH DURING 4th ANNUAL CONSTRUCTION EXPO

For the second consecutive year, more than 300 students and adults attended the Annual Construction Expo sponsored by CISCO and St. Paul Community Development Ministries (SPCDM) last week in Chicago.

Other sponsors of the four-year event included the Chicago Teachers Union, the Chicago Public Schools, the Chicago Federation of Labor, the Chicago & Cook County Building Trades, and the CTU Foundation.

These entities joined forces to showcase careers in the construction industry. There were 15 building trades present and staffed by apprenticeship coordinators/instructors who provided information about applying to the apprentice programs. Some trades also provided hands-on demonstrations at their booths to give attendees an idea about day-to-day work techniques.

“The success of this event can be measured by the numbers of men and women who are not only becoming

aware of the union construction apprentice programs, but who are also taking the next steps to apply and gain entry into one of these career opportunities,” said CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen.

“We need to continue to promote how open and accessible the union trades are to both minorities and women,” he added.

To learn more about the skilled union trades, contact Johnetta Ryan, CISCO’s Education-to-Careers Director at (630) 472-9411. *(Cont. on pg. 2)*



Painters & Drywall Finishers



Bricklayers



Carpenters



Boilermakers Local 1



Chicagoland Laborers



Pipefitters Local 597



Operating Engineers 150



Teamsters



Ceramic Tile Setters



Electricians Local 134



Sprinkler Fitters Local 281



Sheet Metal - SMART Local 73

More news and photos on the back page.

# CISCO ON THE MOVE

## FORMER ATTENDEES PROVIDE INSPIRATION TO EXPO PROGRAM

In one of the more inspiring moments of the speaking portion of the program, three former attendees of last year's Construction Expo were in attendance as apprentices. Luis Zuniga and Maurice Harris, both of Plumbers Local 130 were providing information to attendees, as well as DeMario Reed, who is now an apprentice with the Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11 (see photo below).



*Maurice Harris (center) points to his cousin in the audience as he delivers his remarks. Harris and Luis Zuniga (right) are apprentices in Plumbers Local 130's program. At left is Roofers Local 11 apprentice DeMario Reed (partially hidden).*

Maurice Harris pointed to his cousin in the audience and said, "I was in almost the exact same chair as you were last year, excited about the opportunity I had in front of me."

"I knew it was going to be a lot of hard work, but nothing in life comes easy, and now look at the career I have ahead of me," he added.

Prior to Harris' remarks, Luis Zuniga spoke of his experience. "If you've come here looking for a job, you've come to the wrong place. If you've come here looking for a career in the construction industry, then get ready to apply yourself, because it is worth every ounce of sweat."

Zuniga went on to describe how much he has already learned in one year, and how much more he will learn as he begins his road to becoming a journeyman in the union plumbing trade. He thanked the organizers of the event for opening the door for him.

## TECH CENTER OF LAKE COUNTY BRINGS LARGE GROUP OF STUDENTS



In addition to hundreds of local residents who stopped by the event, a large group of students from the Tech Center of Lake County (see above photo) attended. The Tech Center's Construction Skills and Management Instructor Steven J. Schmidt said afterward, "From the feedback I received, everyone learned more about what might be available to him or her in the near future with regard to the opportunities that exist within the construction industry."

## PARTICIPANTS EXPRESS INTEREST, REASONS FOR ATTENDING

In talking to a handful of people at the event, the reasons for attending were varied, but the interest in a career in construction was evident:

1) Denise & Terry Gathings - Denise, a Chicago police officer from the 2nd District brought her son and 12 other young adults who she said "have very little hope of getting off the streets." She added that the event



*Denise and Terry Gathings listen to Laborers' Apprenticeship Instructor Don Calhoun as he describes what is required to apply to the program.*

demonstrated many opportunities that can provide for a family, a home and a great life. Her son Terry said that he enjoyed the bricklaying and

carpentry trades the most because the "basics of measuring, cutting, and lining bricks along a line were much easier to grasp than others."

2) Paul Clark - A father of two, Mr. Clark said that the Tile Setters and Laborers trades were of interest to him, because he could pick up on the specifics quickly. "With training, I could focus on the finer points over a longer period of time," he said.



*Brian Dubin, Apprenticeship Instructor for the Roofers Local 11, tells Paul Clark (top center) about the physical nature of a career in roofing.*

3) Tonika Boyd - Tonika, a local resident, said she loves to use her hands when she works. "I love learning, and if I can find a career where I can use my hands, I would be very interested in pursuing that idea."

"This event was a great idea and I am glad I attended, because it really opened my eyes to other options."

CISCO will continue to hold events like these in order to reach out to every community within its 6-county region.

As headlines focus on the increasing national labor shortage in the construction industry, CISCO's Education-to-Careers Program and events such as this, demonstrate our mission to recruit and train men and women ensuring that we remain the most diverse and highly skilled union construction workforce of any in the country.

