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CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

Construction Industry Service Corporation - www.cisco.org - 630.472.9411 - Dan Allen, Executive Director

PATHWAY TO APPRENTICESHIP FAIR ENJOYS GOOD TURNOUT

The July 20 Information Fair called "Pathway to Apprenticeship" showed how partnerships are having a positive impact on local communities. CISCO teamed with the Illinois Legislative Black Caucus, the Chicago & Cook County Building and Construction Trades, City Colleges of Chicago and the Illinois AFL-CIO to provide participants the necessary information to prepare and apply to earn a union construction apprenticeship.

The Fair was held at Dawson Technical Institute and was attended by about 80 people who had an opportunity to speak to representatives of 17 different trades. In addition to the informational booths, the event was highlighted by welcoming comments from State Senator Kimberly Lightford (D-4th); Tom Villanova, President of the Chicago & Cook County Build Trades; Dawson Tech Dean Robery Barnett and Illinois AFL-CIO Legislative Director Jason Keller.



In her remarks, Sen. Lightford (at left) mentioned her father was the first African-American union carpenter on Chicago's west side. Her father instilled in her

the importance of training, the value of union skills, and the positive economic impact these careers provide working class families and their communities. As Chair of the Black Caucus, she also stated that the Caucus has an A-plus voting record on labor issues.



Pictured from left: Rep. Kenneth Dunkin, Dawson Tech Dean Robert Barnett, Sen. Kimberly Lightford, Rep. LaShawn Ford, Tom Villanova, President of the Chicago and Cook County Building Trades, Rep. Camille Lilly, State Sen. Jacqueline Collins and Jason Keller, Illinois AFL-CIO Legislative Director.

Echoing the Senator's comments regarding the skills, training and diversity of the union construction industry, Tom Villanova stated that there are 5,460 registered apprentices in Cook County, of which 41% are minorities. He added that annual spending on apprenticeship training is \$74 million in Cook County and \$1.2 billion nationally. This makes the union apprenticeship training program the 2nd largest privately-funded educational system in the country - providing top taxpayer value without using any publicly funded monies.

He concluded by saying that a union apprenticeship program, with its extensive, state of the art training; represents not just a job, but a pathway to a meaningful, skilled career in the construction industry.



Roofer & Waterproofer Apprenticeship Instructor Brian Dubin helps a participant.



Plumbers Local 130 Training Director John Yock Jr. (center) and 3rd year apprentice Michael Lewis (right and Dawson Tech grad) help out an interested student during the Fair.



Vice President of IBEW Local 134 Maurice King explains the application process to an interested individual.



Laborers' Apprenticeship Coordinator Paul Hoetzer talks about application requirements.



Kina McAfee, Assistant Apprenticeship Coordinator for the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters (right) gives an overview of the program to two prospective applicants.

To view more photos of the event, visit: <http://cisco.org/photo-gallery/>.