



CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTER

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www.ConstructionTrainingCenter.org

January 6, 2010

TO: House Ways and Means Committee Members
FROM: Construction Training Center
RE: WIA Funding Denial

My name is John Cammon and I am the President of Construction Training Center in Fairfield County with a branch campus in the Lake City area. For over ten years Construction Training Center has made a significant contribution to workforce development and is licensed by the Commission of Higher Education to offer certificates in construction.

Thank you for affording myself and other private providers to attend the House Ways & Means Committee hearing on Tuesday, January 5th, as well as submit my concerns for your review. If you were present or reviewed the minutes from the hearing, the room was filled with private and public sector participants who are passionate about career education and workforce development in South Carolina. As a provider for WIA, we share the same challenges as noted by my fellow constituents.

It is our understanding as it has been reiterated by the Department of Commerce that it is the student's choice where to receive training. Although we are on the provider's list, Fairfield, Richland and Chester Counties refuse to send students to us in spite of the student's desires. This problem is most prevalent in Fairfield, as students were told repeatedly by Deloris Gilbert, WIA Director in Winnsboro; they cannot attend Construction Training Center, but must attend Midlands Tech. Richland County still has not been able to give us a reason why they refuse to send us students. Chester County has also put a hold on sending students who have expressed interest in attending Construction Training Center although there is a back log of potential students wanting to begin training at our school. We have met with Jerome McKiver, WIA Director in the Catawba Region and Robert Barber, Regional Director in the Catawba Region concerning releasing the students. Mr. Ralph Heath, Workforce Development Manager of Shaw Construction has explained repeatedly to these gentlemen the importance of preparing a workforce for jobs coming available with the VC Summer project in Jenkinsville. Ms. Bonnie Austin, the Midlands WIA Regional Director, has also had the privilege of meeting with Mr. Heath to hear the importance of preparing a viable workforce for the project through Construction Training Center's programs. Ms. Deloris Gilbert, Ms. Bonnie Austin, Mr. Jerome McKiver and Mr. Robert Barber, all of WIA have visited

our campus with Mr. Heath of Shaw, to see the quality training experience we offer at Construction Training Center.

Attached you will find a listing of recent graduates along with the county they reside in or was processed in for WIA. The attached data reflects that in spite of placing 88% of graduates from Fairfield County in jobs and 75% of students from Chester County in jobs, we've been cut off. Our Richland County job placement rate is 100%; however, no one is allowed to attend our school.

Also attached is a document prepared by Mr. Scott Bellows of the Small Business Development Center in Columbia on our behalf regarding this matter. Mr. Bellows contact information is listed at the bottom of his attachment.

The choices being made by the local WIA officials to ignore the policy to let the WIA client choose from the providers list is putting not only organizations like my own at a disadvantage but destroying the possibility of creating a ready workforce in the construction industry. Construction Training Center offers unique programs that aren't offered at the technical colleges. While they are in the beginning stages of offering a program in form carpentry, our program in form carpentry is fast paced and has a track record of placing graduates with Shaw Construction for the VC Summer Project in Jenkinsville. In addition our Rod Busting/Reinforcing Ironwork is the only one available in the area. Although students are interested in the program they are being told to go to a school where the program is not offered.

Construction Training Center is working with Shaw Construction to prepare a workforce for the many construction workers that will be needed for the Nuclear Reactor Project at VC Summer. If they don't have a qualified workforce locally they will begin to search for qualified workers outside of the state. Not only are our graduates prepared to work at the fore mentioned job site, but opportunities in construction are available with other companies as well. If WIA is in the business of putting individuals back to work then I ask of you to please help fix the problems in the local and regional offices. Otherwise, jobs that could have gone to our citizens in South Carolina will go to individuals migrating from other parts of the country. I along with my staff are available to discuss the matter with you in greater detail and/or in person. I look forward to continuing to prepare a viable workforce in South Carolina.

Sincerely,



John E. Cammon

President/CEO

803-712-9343

jcammon@constructiontrainingcenter.org

Attachments

CONSTRUCTION TRAINING CENTER GRADUATES REPORT

Names	SS#	County	WIA Client	Training Program	Start Date	End Date	CTC Certificate	Employment	* Avg. Wage Rate	Avg. Hours At Work
Akers II, Lloyd	7592	Sumter	Yes	Form Carp.	6/22/2009	10/14/2009	Yes	TNT Const.	\$12/hr	40
Blackburn, John	5031	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	3/30/2009	5/8/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Boulware, Daniel	6458	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	5/18/2009	7/2/2009	Yes	Guardian Fiberglass	\$12/hr	40
Brice, Timothy	1350	Fairfield	Yes	Rod Busting	*9/25/2008	*12/12/2008	Yes	Davis Const.	\$12/hr	40
Brunswick, Freddie	4786	Richland	Yes	Rod Busting	12/1/2009	3/20/2009	Yes	Employed (Manufacturing)	\$12/hr	40
Campbell, Mitchell	5318	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	6/15/2009	10/21/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Collins, Curtis	9086	Sumter	Yes	Form Carp.	6/15/2009	10/19/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Curry, Andrew	0049	Chester	Yes	Rod Busting	4/6/2009	7/30/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Davis, Randolph	2010	Fairfield	Yes	Form Carp.	4/27/2009	8/21/2009	Yes	Dane Const.	\$12/hr	40
Deese, Leroy S.	6020	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	3/30/2009	5/8/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Dixon, Jackie	9615	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	3/30/2009	5/12/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Green, Terrance	5466	Sumter	Yes	Rod Busting	7/20/2009	11/11/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Hemphill, Chanting	4359	Fairfield	Yes	Rod Busting	6/29/2009	10/16/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Hopkins, Ernest	6071	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	3/30/2009	5/8/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Jackson, Robert	5032	Fairfield	Yes	Form Carp.	4/27/2009	8/28/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Jackson, Rondy	4325	Fairfield	No	Rod Busting	*7/14/2008	*10/30/2008	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Lilley, Henry	5065	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	5/4/2009	8/24/2009	Yes	Dane Const.	\$12/hr	40
McCray, Reginald	3582	Sumter	Yes	Rod Busting	5/25/2009	10/6/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
McCammon, Robert		Chester	No	Form Carp.	6/1/2009	9/29/2009	Yes	Guardian Fiberglass	\$12/hr	40
Mobley, Hugh	5110	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	3/30/2009	5/8/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Morris, Mark	8545	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	5/25/2009	10/5/2009	Yes	Morris Constr.	\$12/hr	40
Perry, Leonard	7425	Sumter	Yes	Form Carp.	7/20/2009	12/1/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Rawis, Terry	7451	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	6/1/2009	9/21/2009	Yes	CTC	\$12/hr	40
Richardson, Charles	2848	Sumter	Yes	Form Carp.	5/25/2009	10/2/2009	Yes	TNT Const.	\$12/hr	40
Sanders, Mattie	9277	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	5/25/2009	9/18/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Sartor, Eric	9196	Fairfield	No	Rod Busting	2/23/2009	6/12/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40

Names	SS#	County	WIA Client	Training Program	Start Date	End Date	CTC Certificate	Employment	*Avg. Wage Rate	Avg. Hours At Work
Smith, Johnny	3485	Fairfield	Yes	Form Carp.	5/12/2009	8/28/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Stewart, Raymond	5871	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	5/18/2009	9/8/2009	Yes	CTC	\$12/hr	40
Stickney, Charles	2396	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	5/25/2009	7/2/2009	Yes	Unemployed (moved out of state)		
Stukes, Jimmie	7197	Richland	Yes	Rod Busting	2/9/2009	5/29/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Sweet, Gary	7679	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	05/18/2009	07/10/2009	Yes	Unemployed (moved out of state)		
Thompson, Larry	9506	Chester	Yes	Rod Busting	5/18/2009	9/17/2009	Yes	Davis Const.	\$12/hr	40
Turner, Lewis	3198	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	03/16/2009	05/08/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Wallace, James	0012	Sumter	Yes	Form Carp.	07/20/2009	11/16/2009	Yes	TNT Const.	\$12/hr	40
White, Donald	3808	Sumter	Yes	Form Carp.	05/25/2009	09/24/2009	Yes	TNT Const.	\$12/hr	40
White, Mckenzie	0183	Sumter	Yes	Rod Busting	06/15/2009	09/24/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Williams, Jasmine	0815	Sumter	Yes	Rod Busting	05/25/2009	09/25/2009	Yes	Davis Const.	\$12/hr	40
Wilson, Columbus	9966	Chester	Yes	Rod Busting	03/30/2009	07/24/2009	Yes	Unemployed		
Wilson, Robert	6395	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	03/30/2009	05/12/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Wishert, Floyd	1700	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	04/20/2009	08/28/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Worthy, Michael	8767	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	05/18/2009	09/23/2009	Yes	SCE&G	\$12/hr	40
Worthy, Raquibaziz	3960	Chester	Yes	Rod Busting	03/23/2009	07/31/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Wylie, Maurice	4183	Fairfield	Yes	Rod Busting	06/29/2009	10/16/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40
Young, Johnny	8983	Chester	Yes	Form Carp.	05/14/2009	8/28/2009	Yes	Shaw Const.	\$12/hr	40

* Based on company policy, the graduate does not report their exact wage, but rather gives a range.

* Students returned in 2009 to take NCCER courses for no additional cost

EMPLOYMENT/PLACEMENT RATE SUMMARY

School Employment/Placement Rate:	73%
Chester County:	75%
Fairfield County:	88%
Sumter County:	70%
Richland County:	100%

Placement rates are calculated based on a student being given a job offer. The school is not responsible for those who have been placed in positions but have been fired or laid off. The rates are inclusive for those who are working in their craft and as well as entry level positions that will lead to their craft skill. The rates are also inclusive of those who have accepted positions in other fields with comparable wages to their craft skill.

Constituent:

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Background Summary:

The Construction Training Center (CTC) was created to provide construction training skills to, in particular, residents in and surrounding Fairfield County. They specialize in rod busting (rebar) and forms carpentry. They are based in Blair, SC which is located near Jenkinsville, SC. Jenkinsville is the location of nuclear facilities including two that are scheduled for construction (the V.C. Summer site).

Although CTC has applied for Title IV educational loan authority and is working on setting up student loan programs locally, almost 100% of student financial aid currently comes from the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant program. Few students can afford the approx. \$6,000 for the intensive 16 week program.

Owing to its geographic proximity, CTC is ideally located to provide a source of labor for the construction of the new nuclear sites and, consequently, to provide jobs for this targeted employment area. Because the nuclear sites require a high level of safety and security, CTC has tailored its program to meet the requirements set forth by the construction contractor (The Shaw Construction Group as represented by Mr. Ralph Heath, ralph.heath@shawgrp.com). These requirements include NCCER certification. Although Shaw has worked with other educators (e.g., Midlands Technical College), CTC appears to be the primary if not the only provider in its specialty areas.

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant program—formerly part of the Unemployment Commission—serves to provide training opportunities to those in need. By design, this program locates employers and then funds students who will fill positions with those firms upon graduation. The expectation is immediate employment upon graduation at an agreed-to compensation level. This program is directed by Bonnie Austin, baustin@mwdb.org).

The WIA program has funded approximately 25 students to date and, until recently, the WIA-CTC-Shaw relationship has worked well. Although the Shaw Group's program is very large (the site is expected to employ approximately 3,500 people in the next 5 years and something like 13,000 at its peak), they have fallen short of being able to fully absorb all of the CTC graduates at this time. They have, however, endeavored to bring graduates on at lower pay scales until the positions for which they are targeted open up and have verbally indicated to

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the WIA representatives and others that they will have no problem absorbing virtually all graduates as we move into the first quarter of CY10.

Problem:

Representatives of the WIA program have indicated that their legislative mandate does not allow them to defer post-graduation employment and that to do so could jeopardize the entire program in SC. Accordingly, they have completely stopped funding students who wish to attend CTC. The net impact on this action is twofold. First, it places CTC in a precarious financial position since its revenue source has all but dried up for at least three months. Second, and more important, it has stopped the "pipeline" of graduates from CTC. If this situation continues, even before the WIA funding resumes the flow of graduates will stop and The Shaw Group will have little recourse but to locate labor elsewhere. The Shaw Group has made it clear from the beginning that it will endeavor to hire locally, statewide and nationally, in that order of precedence. Stated differently, jobs that could have gone to the targeted employment areas of Fairfield and adjacent counties will now go elsewhere, including out-of-state. This represents a major lost opportunity that only a project like the nuclear site can bring to a region like this.

Request:

On behalf of my client (CTC), contact the appropriate Dept. of Labor representative and explain the short-term problem that exists owing to the apparent legislation and learn whether a waiver or other action can be made that would authorize the use of WIA funding without threatening ongoing funding of the program in SC.

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