



Feel the Power

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DC Residents Graduate from Weatherization Training Program

Washington, D.C. – The Laborers’ International Union of North America (LIUNA) graduated its first class of skilled weatherization workers – all local D.C. residents – today. D.C. Mayor Adrian M. Fenty attended the graduation and presented the graduates with their certificates.

The 18 new graduates completed a challenging two-week training program where they learned general construction skills in addition to core weatherization competencies, such as energy auditing and insulating. The Washington Interfaith Network (WIN) and LIUNA worked together to train the D.C. residents, who will soon go to work weatherizing 500 low- and moderate-income homes as part of a D.C.-financed \$3 million pilot program.

“We are dedicated to providing the necessary training to D.C. residents to ensure they are qualified to perform good-paying jobs like those in the weatherization pilot program,” said Dennis Martire, VP of the LiUNA! Mid-Atlantic Region. “The collaboration between WIN, LiUNA! and the District is the perfect example of a training program and community partnership that gets it right by having jobs available at the end of the training session.”

LIUNA has designed a breakthrough national program to train thousands of workers in communities across the country to do skilled energy efficiency retrofits. Through LIUNA’s nationwide network of training centers, trainees are learning detailed weatherization skills and have the opportunity to advance in family-supporting careers. In addition to D.C. – where the new trainees will soon begin work – LIUNA weatherization workers are already on the job in Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon and Washington.

It is estimated that LIUNA’s national training program will create hundreds of thousands of new jobs, reduce household energy costs by \$3.5 billion a year and save the equivalent of 500 million barrels of oil annually. Both Green for All (www.greenforall.org) and Good Jobs First (www.goodjobsfirst.org) have highlighted LIUNA’s weatherization model as an example of weatherization work done right.

The average family can save \$350 or more a year on their utility bills after a weatherization. Retrofitting is also a cost effective way to help our environment, because the energy wasted in homes contributes heavily to pollution in communities. American homes (particularly those in the Northeast) burn oil that comes from foreign sources, so weatherization can also bolster our nation’s energy security by helping to curb the amount of foreign oil that is wasted on poorly insulated windows, doors and roofs.

For more information on LIUNA’s weatherization training program please visit <http://www.liunabuildsamerica.org/weatherize>.

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