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17 Former Inmates Graduate from Free Construction Training Class

For Immediate Release

February 8, 2017

Contact

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Los Angeles – The Playa Vista Job Opportunities and Business Services (PVJOBS)/ WLCAC Southeast Los Angeles WorkSource Center free Construction Training for individuals recently released from prison held its first graduation February 8th.

“Last year at this time, it was tough,” Graduate Rico Martin, 45, said. “But my dad sent me to the WLCAC. I was an angry bird walking in there. I couldn’t do the work I wanted to do with the felonies I had.”

When he received his certificates at The Construction Pre-Apprenticeship Program graduation, Martin thanked the entire staff of PVJOBS.

“They don’t turn their backs on guys,” he said. “I was told either you want it or you don’t. The work part wasn’t hard, it was the mental that was holding me back.”

New three-week classes are being scheduled. Participants must be at least 18 years of age; enroll at the WLCAC/Southeast L.A. WorkSource Center at 10950 S. Central Ave., Los Angeles; and have been released within the last 18 months.

“Course certifications include OSHA 30, HazMat and work-readiness training courses,” PVJOBS Executive Director Ernest Roberts said. “And workshops on union trade entry preparation and hands-on construction instruction are also included.”

Funding for this training program is provided through the Economic & Workforce Development Department’s Workforce Re-entry Initiative Program. WLCAC has collaborated closely with PVJOBS since 2007 to provide these essential services for our highest need residents.

For information, contact Hazel White at 323.357-3538 or hwhite@wlcac.org.

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PVJOBS is a nationally recognized, nonprofit organization, working with major construction projects, unions and 130 community-based, collaborating organizations to provide construction job opportunities to local, at-risk residents. These disadvantaged adults have either been welfare recipients, did not complete high school, have former gang affiliations, endured homelessness or have been incarcerated. Since its formation in 1998, PVJOBS has filled more than 7,000 positions, maintaining a retention rate of 89 percent.

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