

Laborers' Union and Department of Corrections to Expand Partnership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kingston, Wash. Nov. 7, 2018 - [The Laborers' International Union of North America](#) (LIUNA) hosted a discussion with the [Washington Department of Corrections](#), community educators, leaders from other trades, community and technical colleges, transportation and construction organizations. The meeting at the Kingston Laborers' training facility focused on pre-apprenticeship training throughout the state, setting those who are currently incarcerated on a construction craft workforce career path before they are released back into their community.

"The Department of Corrections values the relationship that has developed between the department and the Laborers," said Lucienne Banning, workforce development manager with Corrections' Correctional Industries. "Supporting people as they transition to employment takes a collaborative effort. To improve public safety, it is critical to provide opportunities for living wage careers with benefits. The input and support of LIUNA is much appreciated as the Apprenticeship Working Group works to create meaningful pathways to the trades for men and women releasing from state correctional facilities."

[The Northwest Laborers-Employers Training Trust](#) (NWLETT), the education branch of LIUNA, has been actively working with female inmates incarcerated in Washington through their Trades Related Apprenticeship Coaching (TRAC) program. Upon completion of the program, the women will be given direct entry into the Laborers' apprenticeship program. NWLETT, in partnership with Corrections and the cross sector Apprenticeship Working Group, will also extend the program to men's correctional facilities. The venture both fulfills nationwide labor shortages but provides construction craft knowledge to those previously incarcerated to aid in reducing the cycle of recidivism.

"It helps give us a pipeline for workers because we have a shortage of laborers right now," said Glen Freiberg, training director with Northwest Laborers-Employers Training Trust. "With the TRAC program, they get a lot of training. It's a real pre-apprenticeship program and they have direct entry into our apprenticeship program. It also helps these folks get reestablished. As soon as they pass, they don't have to test again."



Northwest Laborers-Employers Training Trust serves all of Washington and Utah and is committed to working on behalf of members and Signatory Contractors. Their mission is to provide continuous workforce education and training which meets industry needs, builds careers and increases employers' competitive advantage. Local members and apprentices enjoy a family-supporting wage, health benefits, a pension and paid training. To find out more please go to www.nwlett.org.