



Andrew Inorio (far left), President, Laborers' Local 455 with Ralph Inorio, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer (center), and students from the CW12 program and Wilcox Regional Vocational Technical High School

A Powerful Partnership Putting People to Work

It's no secret - the New England Laborers' Training Trust Fund is renowned for its regional leadership role as the most experienced and skillful labor-management fund, with a myriad of partnerships in the construction technology industry. That is why the Construction Workforce Initiative 2 (CW12) in New Haven and Meriden, Connecticut has turned to the Laborers to assist in training its "best of the best" pre-apprenticeship graduates throughout the years. Just recently, five graduates from CW12 successfully completed the Laborers' vigorous, four week General Construction Training Program (Gen-Con) at its training academy in Pomfret, Connecticut. All five secured employment with signatory contractors through Laborers' Local Union 455 and the guidance of Business Manager/Secretary Treasurer, Ralph Inorio.

CW12 is a non-profit workforce development program that helps low income individuals attain the construction and soft work skills necessary to enter the Construction Trades. Acceptance into the Laborers' Apprenticeship Program and journeyworker status as a Construction Craft Laborer is the gold standard for those passing the CW12's six-month course.

"These individuals showed the talent, determination and work ethic our Signatory Contractors demand from its employees," expressed Inorio. "We have high expectations of our apprentices, and after completing the Gen-Con Program, these young adults proved to us the exceptional quality of their work

and the standards they set for themselves as individuals. The Laborers' Gen-Con program is customized so that students attain the skills sets and certifications necessary to meet the current demands of the industry – whether it be underground utility work, structural demolition, welding or environmental remediation- so they can readily attain employment."

Jay Sabitoni, Executive Director of the New England Laborers' Training Academy, Pomfret, explained, "These students, some of whom have young children, expressed how much they are thankful for the family supporting pay and benefits they receive as union members once they successfully complete this course and go on toward journeyworker status. They appreciate our lifelong commitment to them in their career path as Construction Craft Laborers. The alliance is truly a win/win for everyone. We receive the cream of the crop graduates from the CW12 program as do our contractors, and at the same time, our great union is helping people in the community who are greatly in need of work."

In addition, five students from the H.C. Wilcox Regional Vocational Technical High School in Meriden also completed the four week Gen-Con Program. They too are well on their way to becoming part of the Laborers' proud Construction Craft workforce.