

DEPARTMENT OF JUVENILE SERVICES

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"Together...ReShaping Young Lives"



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
News Release

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**THE FIRST PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM IN SKILLED
CONSTRUCTION TRADES FOR DJS YOUTH**

SILVERSPRINGS, MD—(May 30, 2008). Secretary Donald DeVore from the Department of Juvenile Services (DJS), joined by Lt. Governor Anthony Brown and Secretary Thomas Perez from the Department of Labor and Licensing (DLLR), announced the creation of a Pre-Apprenticeship Program in skilled construction trades for DJS youth residing at the Victor Cullen Center for boys at a Maryland Apprenticeship Seminar today. This is a collaborative 10 week program that started on May 19th and will run through July 24th.

Youth will receive an introduction to 15 Trade Unions and the skilled construction trades they represent, such as bricklayers, carpenters, electrical workers, masons, plumbers, roofers and sheet metal workers. The program curriculum was created in collaboration with the Apprenticeship and Training Division for the Heat & Frost Insulators and Allied Workers Local 24, who will be voluntarily facilitating the program.

Through this program youth will gain an understanding of how they can “earn as they learn” through apprenticeships that provide the optimum blend of on-the-job training, classroom instruction and a sound starting salary. They will learn about job benefits, including health care, pensions, profit-sharing and paid vacations, and how their salaries can increase as they gain proficiency towards becoming journeypersons. Youth will also discover how to enter management fields, earn college credit, become licensed, and own their own businesses. This program will culminate with each graduating youth earning certificates that provide college credit from the National Labor College, as well as CPR/First Aid and OSHA certification certificates. Successful youth will also be able to earn stipends of up to \$150.

“This program represents the core of DJS’ new Maryland Model which focuses on providing real services for youth and builds on true collaborations with partner agencies, professions and the community. This is a wonderful opportunity for these young people to leave our program with skills they can use when they return back to their communities,” stated Secretary DeVore.

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