Supporting New Environmental Career Pipelines in the Los Angeles Region

Presenters:

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Los Angeles Black Worker Center

- Established in 2010 out of the UCLA Labor Center and became an independent organization in 2014.

- Became a national organization in the last ten years.

- It is the only place in the nation where organized labor, workers, scholars, students and community are focused on reversing the Black jobs crisis through action and unionization.
Challenges Facing Black Workers in Los Angeles

The Black Population in Los Angeles has declined by over 5% and moving 100 miles outside of LA. Over 50 percent of working age Black adults are unemployed or under-employed in the LA county.

- Lack of well-paying, quality accessible jobs
- Increased criminalization and incarceration
- Racist hiring practices
- Rising housing costs
Ready to Work Program

• https://losh.ucla.edu/news-media/video/
Process of The Program

- **Workforce development model**
- **Partners:** LABWC Advisory Committee members, Painter’s Union (36), Roofer’s Union (36), and UCLA-LOSH
- **Process:** Outreach, Orientation, Multi-Day Pre Apprenticeship Readiness Boot-Camp, Graduation, Placement and Job Referrals, Mentorship Retention
Two Cohorts:

- **August 2018 (10 participants)**
  - 8/10 placed (Painters)

- **March 2019 (17 participants)**
  - 8/17 placed so far (Painters)
  - Ongoing hiring process
Significance of Program

Uniqueness: services available through Ready to Work Boot-Camp

- Industry-specific mentors offer ongoing support and guidance, particularly around issues facing Black workers in their industry
- Union awareness education -- understanding how unions work and how to navigate the union structure
- Services to remove other barriers to employment, including obtaining Driver’s licenses, expunging records, clearing tickets
- Integrated health and safety education and certification.

LOSH provided trainings:

- OSHA 10
- CPR/First Aid
- Lead Awareness
- Confined Spaces Awareness
- Heat Illness Awareness
- Chemical Hazards Awareness
- Mentoring/Career Guidance
- Life Skills
Relevance: Major construction Projects in LA

- Crenshaw/LAX Transit Project
- Lucas Museum of Narrative Art, $1-billion project
- Olympics 2028: LA Stadium at Hollywood Park (LA Rams)
Larry Pickett recently completed the Winter Ready 2 Work Boot Camp in March 2019 and is now working as an Industrial Painter with the Painter's Union. Larry came to the Los Angeles Black Worker Center with two goals: to provide for his family and move his family into a home. Larry had been living in hotels with his three children as a single parent for nearly 3 years.

Prior to enrolling the Ready 2 Work pre-apprenticeship program, he felt hopeless and discouraged. He heard about the program from a friend and the both of them encouraged each other and got to class at least two hours early every day.

Larry was able to move into a two-bedroom apartment less than a month after graduating from the program and has been working with the Painter's Union for nearly a month now. Larry is incredibly grateful to the program offered in partnership by the Los Angeles Black Worker Center and the UCLA LOSH program. "I feel like a man now. I can provide for my family. I would have never dreamt of this opportunity. Thank you guys so much."