

Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative



Louisiana Community &
Technical College System
Changing Lives, Creating Futures



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GREAT Campaign Partner Donates Tools to Advance Construction Training Across Louisiana, Aid Gulf Rebuild Effort

Free construction training courses at Baton Rouge Community College part of broad Initiative to train up to 20,000 new construction workers across the Gulf Coast in basic construction skills by 2009

Baton Rouge, LA – The Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative announced today at Baton Rouge Community College a series of donations to bring the best in class tools to construction training programs across Louisiana. The tool donations, valued at \$75,000, are sponsored by Initiative partner Robert Bosch Tool Corporation and will benefit Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) programs in Baton Rouge, New Orleans and other communities where tuition-free entry-level construction training is offered. Donated Bosch tools are already being used by trainees at Delgado Community College in New Orleans, while Baton Rouge Community College and Louisiana Technical College-Port Allen received new tools following today's announcement.

"The Louisiana Community and Technical College System greatly values the continued investment of the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative and their partner Bosch Tool to advance our efforts to train a new generation of construction workers," said Jim Henderson, LCTCS Senior Vice President for Career and Technical Education. "The tools donated today by Bosch will help us to train students with best in class equipment and meet the unprecedented surge in demand for the skilled workforce critical to the rebuilding of our state. This partnership is definitely welcomed."

"Louisiana residents have been working very hard to rebuild their state," said Tim Horst, the Initiative program manager. "Bosch's strong investment in this important program will help prepare and arm construction workers with the best tools to get the job done."

The Bosch Tool donation in Baton Rouge includes over 300 power tools for training centers at Baton Rouge Community College and Louisiana Technical College-Port Allen where they will be used daily by construction trainee students. "Our company is dedicated to helping the Gulf Coast region rebuild and are pleased to be partnering with the Initiative and GREAT campaign in this important endeavor," added Tony Pauly, director of market development for Bosch Tool.

“We are grateful to Bosch for their generous donation of equipment to our Construction Pathways program,” BRCC Chancellor Myrtle E. B. Dorsey said. “Bosch is recognized for providing exceptionally crafted and durable tools for the construction industry. By providing our students with equipment accepted world-wide as an industry standard for excellence, we meet our goal of providing a world-class education to our students.

The GREAT (Gulf Rebuild: Education, Advancement and Trainig) campaign is a recruitment effort of the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative, which seeks to recruit and train up to 20,000 new construction workers across the Gulf Coast in basic construction skills by 2009.

“BRCC is also proud to be a partner in the GREAT campaign,” Dorsey noted. “This initiative is so critical because it gives our students exciting new career options; at the same time, it provides the Gulf Coast Region with the personnel and resources so desperately needed for the ongoing restoration.”

The Initiative has been created by a partnership of business, community, contractor and other groups along with local, state and federal governments. Business Roundtable, an association of 160 leading CEOs, is leading the recruitment campaign and has committed \$5 million to the program. The State of Louisiana has allocated \$15 million toward construction training programs, and federal job training grants are also paying for training.

People interested in taking part in the free training for construction jobs can call a toll-free number – 1-888-52-GREAT (47328) – and or visit the campaign’s website – www.imgreat.org.

Participants will go through a free four-week training session on basic construction skills to prepare them for entry-level construction jobs. They will receive 102.5 clock hours of free training comprised of topics including basic safety, construction math, hand tools, power tools, blueprint reading and basic rigging. The training is designed to prepare them for entry-level construction jobs and help them develop a career in the construction industry. Generally, the average salary for a construction craft professional is \$20 per hour.

To be eligible for the training, a participant must be a legal U.S. resident and take a basic skills assessment evaluation.

A list of Initiative partners and contributors is available at www.imgreat.org.

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Gulf Rebuild: Education, Advancement and Training, or GREAT campaign, is sponsored by the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative, a partnership of federal, state and local government agencies, businesses, community organizations and construction trade groups and associations, working together to recruit and train up to 20,000 skilled construction craft workers for the Gulf Coast region by the end of 2009. The GREAT campaign is primarily funded by members of Business Roundtable, an association of 160 CEOs of leading U.S. companies. For more information please visit our website, www.imgreat.org.