

NEWS RELEASE

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Electrical Course Offered At No Cost Provides Career Opportunity in Recessionary Time

RAYMOND, MS. – The Raymond Career Center is offering a 300-hour Electrical/Core Construction course for persons 18 years or older who are unemployed or underemployed and are interested in training for a job or career in the construction industry. Classes will begin June 1 and end July 24, 2009 and will be held 8:00 a.m. – 2:30 p.m., Monday – Thursday in addition to 8 hours of on-line study on Friday.

Persons who complete this Electrical Level 1 course will receive training in a marketable trade and credentials recognized by construction contractors nationwide. Training consists of classroom instruction in the trade along with basic construction job skills, intensive hands-on skill training, and on-line computer study. Graduates receive a permanent transcript and certificate from the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) and an OSHA 10-Hour certification required by many employers.

This training is sponsored by the Mississippi Construction Education Foundation (MCEF), an organization that serves Mississippi's construction and maintenance industries. Gary Bambauer, MCEF President, stated, "Partnering with the Raymond Career Center provides a unique opportunity to combine the quality learning and lab facilities at the Center with an NCCER-certified instructor and a recognized construction curriculum – to bring Mississippi-specific skills to our workforce."

William Hux, President of Moses Electric Services, a leading contractor operating in Jackson, Gulfport, and Pensacola, added, "Persons who are not working as a result of lay-offs or downsizing can attend this training during the day and have a better shot at being hired when business picks up and the recession lessens. Those with training will have a competitive edge."

Raymond Career Center Director, Samuel White, said, "In addition to the unemployed and underemployed, this training provides an alternative career path for the increasing number of high school graduates who desire a career in construction."

Classes are open to any interested person through a competitive process at no cost. Funds are provided through a grant from the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative and the Choose Construction Initiative, a joint public-private partnership established to train construction workers to help rebuild the Katrina-devastated Gulf Coast and ensure a sustainable supply of skilled craft workers. Initiative Director, Daniel Groves, stated, "An important aspect of this training is that it creates an opportunity for Mississippi contractors to hire workers with a craft skill or to train current workers at a higher level, all at no cost to them."

Qualifications to participate in training include the following: 18 years of age or older, unemployed or underemployed, high school diploma/GED, valid driver's license and transportation, willing to take a drug test, willing to work in construction, and access to a

computer for on-line instruction. Classes will be held at the Raymond Career Center at 14020 Highway 18 in Raymond. Anyone interested in enrolling in this no-cost training should contact Johnny Browder at (601) 857-5536 or (601) 857-5537 or e-mail at jl Browder@hindscc.edu. Pre-registration is required and class enrollment is limited, so inquire early.

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