



economic
CORNERSTONE

M/W/DBE Update May 2016



Economic Cornerstone Apprenticeship Program Changes Life of Fast Food Worker and Taxi Driver

Nothing shows success like success. The Economic Cornerstone apprenticeship program run by Oriska Jobs and Careers at the Maritime College in the Bronx breeds success. Byron Carchipulla of Queens, a former Burger King employee, and Marcin Chrostowski of Brooklyn, a former waiter and cab driver, are evidence of this success. Today they have careers that provide them secure futures thanks to our apprenticeship program. Carchipulla is graduating as a skilled sheet metal worker and Chrostowski as a plumber and both want to own their own business someday. This would normally seem like an ambitious statement considering their earlier employment, but thanks to their new employers and Economic Cornerstone they are on their way to fulfilling his dream.

Despite Carchipulla working all day as a sheet metal worker and Chrostowski as a plumber, they made the trip to the SUNY Maritime College in the Bronx a couple of evenings a week to master their trade. On May 23th, 2016 their commitment paid off when they graduated with a Certificate of completion in the Related Instruction phase of their apprenticeship training programs. This certificate is recognized by the Department of Education and Department of Labor and puts them on the path to receive a certificate for having achieved journeyman status in the skilled trades.

"This program is designed to ensure students have a career for life," said program founder and Director, James Kernan. "While they attend class in the evening, they work during the day at a prevailing wage job. Once they graduate, they can make a living in the skilled trades and support a family." The certificate he earned, along with the completion of his on-the-job



Shown above from left to right, graduate Byron Carchipull, Economic Cornerstone Director, Jim Kernan and graduate Marcin Chrostowski.

requirement, will qualify him to work as a journeyman anywhere in the country.

The Ecuadorian born Carchipulla completed a 4 year program which included over 600 hours of classroom instruction as well as 6,810 hours of on-the-job training. Carchipulla, who is raising a child, credits his training for giving him the skills support a family. "It has been exciting to be part of this program," he said. "I will totally recommend this program to new workers."

The Polish born Chrostowski completed a 5 year program which included over 1,159 hours of classroom instruction as well as 8,501 hours of on-the-job training. Chrostowski, married in 2015, credits his training for giving him the skills support a family. "I'm going to be the best I can be," he said. "I will soon be a licensed plumber and able to work anywhere thanks to my training."

As with all that Economic Cornerstone does, this program brings skills and opportunities to disadvantaged communities. Students can learn most any skilled trade like carpentry, electrician, plumbing, steam fitting, masonry, ornamental Iron worker, roofer, operating engineer, electrician, and skilled laborer.



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Economic Cornerstone Connects MBE with Job

Economic Cornerstone is dedicated to connecting qualified MBEs with GCs. Recently a developer reach out to find a subcontractor capable of providing concrete work and rebar for a project in Yonkers. The engineers at Economic Cornerstone looked at the project and compared it to the capabilities of the MBEs in our program to assure the success of the project so GCs continue to turn to us for help and our MBEs continue to grow and prosper.

We connected the project manager with Marco Verdugo at Verdugos Contractors in Brooklyn. Jim Cosby, project manager, said, "I would like to thank Economic Cornerstone for the introduction to Marco. He is definitely qualified and knowledgeable about excavation how to organize the project."



Marko Verdugos of Verdugos Contractors meets with Economic Cornerstone Director Carl Evans.

Marko Verdugos said, "I am very grateful for the hard work and efforts shown by Economic Cornerstone. They have helped me every step of the way to get this work in Yonkers. We know we can do the job and want to stay with EC for more work."

Verdugos Contractors is a million dollar business providing plumbing, concrete and electrical services for MTA, Parks and Recreation and others.

We Help MWBEs Get Bonding

MWBEs are often told that they don't qualify for bonding and therefore can't get the job. Sounds familiar, right?

For those MWBEs that qualify for the Economic Cornerstone program this excuse no longer pertains. Economic Cornerstone helps you secure bonding, but under one condition – that you succeed. And we will make sure you do.

But what does success look like?

- Skilled workers that are the best in the industry
- A safe work environment
- The proper insurance coverages
- Sound fiscal management

And Economic Cornerstone will ensure you succeed in all these areas because by securing your bond, we assume the risk with you. Your success is our success and when you succeed, you get bigger, more profitable jobs in the future.

How do we help you?

1. We operate a world-class apprenticeship training facility in NYC that ensures your workers can compete with the best in the business. This is usually at no cost to you!
2. We operate the city's premier worker training safety program.
3. We partner with an insurance carrier dedicated to the success of the MWBE community and provides market competitive rates.
4. We can assist with payroll and project management.

The end result is to help your company be stronger, more profitable and independent. Our end goal is that you get the tools to compete with large majority-owned firm on your own.