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Construction apprenticeship training key to economic recovery

New study shows programs prepare workers for good, green jobs

A report released today by San Diego's Center on Policy Initiatives links quality apprenticeship programs in the building trades to the future of California's green economy and lifting low-income families out of poverty.

The report, *Construction Apprenticeship Programs: Career Training for California's Recovery*, demonstrates that apprenticeship programs are most effective when run collaboratively by labor and management.

"This report sheds light on how important it is to put Californians back to work in jobs that offer a pathway out of poverty and into America's middle class," said Phil Angelides, chairman of the Apollo Alliance. "Building-trades apprenticeship programs help stabilize and strengthen underprivileged communities, and they provide workers with the skills they need to thrive in the new green economy."

Data compiled in the report show that the vast majority of apprenticeship graduates in California (92%) come from joint labor-management programs established through collective bargaining.

The report concludes that construction apprenticeship:

- leads people from disadvantaged backgrounds to middle-class jobs
- is the best vehicle for green job training
- reduces workplace injuries and turnover, and provides consistent health insurance between jobs in a largely temporary industry

"This report shows what kind of training helps to rebuild the economy with solid, stable careers," said author Corinne Wilson, CPI research and policy analyst. "What we need now are local, state and federal policies to support these programs."

The public contracting policies recommended by the study include targeted hiring in low-income communities and giving preference to training programs that provide healthcare and comprehensive safety certification.

The American Clean Energy and Security Act (ACES) recently passed in the House of Representatives includes provisions for these types of policies. That act now awaits action by the Senate.

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