



Commissioner Brad Avakian
Bureau of Labor and Industries

Press Release

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BOLI Awards Final Major Contract Under Highway Workforce Development Program
Agreement with ACE Academy rounds out comprehensive effort to remove barriers to employment, to diversify the workforce, and to keep Oregonians on the job

PORTLAND – Oregon’s Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI) today announced that it has awarded the Academy for Architecture, Construction & Engineering (ACE Academy) the final major contract under the 2011 BOLI-ODOT Heavy Highway Workforce Development Program.

This statewide program will provide \$1 million to support services that increase diversity in the highway construction workforce and help Oregonians gain and keep high-skill, living-wage jobs.

“Nothing is more important to Oregon’s economy than expanding job opportunities for Oregon’s workers, and that’s what this program is all about,” said BOLI Commissioner Brad Avakian. “I’m particularly excited about our efforts to provide students with early training in the highway trades, and our partnership with ACE will focus on knocking down barriers that have traditionally stood in the way of young women pursuing careers in the construction industry.”

Pursuant to its agreement with the state, ACE Academy will receive \$19,974 to provide students with two in-depth orientations to highway construction careers, one this month, and one in June. Participating students will receive one-on-one tutoring, career mentoring, and hands-on training with construction repair projects.

Previous agreements announced under the BOLI-ODOT program include: a \$633,265 contract with Cooper Zeitz to provide training and support services statewide; a \$172,870 contract with the Oregon and Southern Idaho Laborers-Employers Training Trust to provide training and support services statewide; a \$101,313 contract with Portland Community College to provide training and support in the Portland/METRO region; and a \$69,458 contract with Portland Youthbuilders focused on youth pre-apprenticeship services in the Portland/METRO region.

“Each of these contracts will play an important role in helping us develop a highly qualified construction workforce for the future,” said Oregon Department of Transportation Director Matt Garrett. “This program will open doors for Oregon workers, and it is a key part of our commitment to strengthen our transportation infrastructure and reinforce our economic foundation.”

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