

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Nation's T.E.R.O. (Tribal Employment Rights Office) institutes new construction training program on the Yavapai-Apache Nation.

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

A new building construction academy sponsored by the Nation is now training 9 Nation's members to learn all facets of the building trades. This 'from-the-ground-up' construction training program was the idea of Brian Kelley, the T.E.R.O. office program coordinator for the Nation.

T.E.R.O. is a national organization that oversees employment opportunity regulations on Indian reservations. They specifically review all facets of procedures used in the hiring of Indian employees on construction sites on Indian reservation in making sure that Indian employees receive equitable hiring opportunities through the regulations of T.E.R.O.

This assures equity in hiring practices of companies that come to Indian reservations where they conduct construction activities.

Brian Kelley who has close social ties with the Nation as in-law, is committed to providing equal opportunity to the Nation's labor force.

"As a Nation, we strive to see our community and tribal members do great things.

When I started out as the T.E.R.O. officer, my



Gabriel Eylicio (L) and Simon Yoder (back), representatives of the Gila Pueblo College in Globe pose with YAN trainees. Fred Sanchez (2nd from right) from the Utilities Department razed the old trailer that functioned as the field office for the department.

ing located at the Tunlii sewage plant. The new office is for the water utility department head Marti Blad whose office will be relocated inside of the new building where Ms. Blad will be able to conduct the water lab tests.

On July 10, Fred Sanchez with the water department was demolishing the small trailer that has served as Marti's office for years.

It's mid-morning and the temperature gauge climbs up higher as construction trainees pull out long metal stakes holding back the boards that forms the now hardened concrete.

Back in the mid-1980s construction

greater opportunities after they graduate from the training program.

Ms. McMahon starts shoveling in the back-fill as the steel re-bars are

Then they will go out into the field and become employed in the construction trades.

None of the trainees are being paid for par-



Learning the construction trades

removed by others.

"The foundation that we are building is going to last a long time. This is a major improvement to what it use to be," said Ms. McMahon. No one stands still as the construction academy instructors supervise the tearing down of the concrete pouring forms. Fred Sanchez, member of the Nation who works for the water department, sits on the backhoe moving dirt around and descends to the area where he also provides technical knowledge to the trainees. It's all one-on-one out here.

It's a dream come true for the trainees as they will now receive certificates from the training program via Gila Community College in Globe, Arizona after the completion of the pro-

participating in the training program which is an indication of their desire and dedication to complete the training.

This unique construction trades program is being coordinated by the Nation's T.E.R.O office, with cooperation from A.D.O.T.(Arizona Department of Transportation) and Gila Community College of Globe that provides the instructors and trainers.

A.D.O.T. may also employ the services of the new graduates as 'flaggers' on state highway projects once they are trained for this task. The flagger training is offered through national training called the OSHA 10 (Occupational Safety and Hazard Administration) a 10 hour training course that is offered on-line. This training provides training in 9 major areas such as First Aid,

Oil and Gas and Special Safety Topics.

Gabriel Eylicio of the Gila Community College in Globe who is directing the YAN construction training program said with a OSHA 10 training, the YAN trainees "Hopefully, can all get jobs out there on road construction with the OSHA 10 training to become federally employable".

Mr. Eylicio, who is overseeing the academic portion of the construction instruction from Gila Community College in Globe, says the college is offering 2 classes presently: a masonry and a math class for college credit. "When we complete this project they'll be doing construction class and there are 6 different phases in it. They get everything from shingling roofs and framing for residential and commercial construction," he said.

The 16-week course that started on June 4 is jammed packed with additional topics for training purposes. "They get the whole 9 yards and end up with walking away with 18 credits (which will lead the students to receiving an Applied Science Degree in Construction certification), added Mr. Eylicio.

"There are 11 tribes

that got the ball rolling for the Yavapai-Apache Nation construction program. If the expression, 'It pays to know people' were correct, Brian Kelley of YAN made that contact with Mr. Foster who made this possible after Mr. Kelley stated that the Nation had what Mr. Foster needed: to train a labor force that could work in the construction industry including building highways.

The Gila Community College also has instructor Simon Yoder on board to work closely with the students both academically and on the job site. Mr. Yoder will be assuming a greater role in the training activities henceforth as Mr. Eylicio is taking on a new training program with the state prison system.

The in-door classes are taught by Mr. Yoder at the Tunlii Community Center and sometimes at the housing office meeting room.

"The whole idea is to give the participants tangible skills so they can go to a job site and say, 'Look. I can do this. Can you hire me?,' says Mr. Eylicio about the program.

Participants in the classroom and construction training pro-



TERO workcrew raise the wall on the new water department building in Tunlii

number one goal was to help educate and help people get into the construction field," said Mr. Kelley.

Across the river from the Middle Verde community 9 tribal members are disassembling the concrete forms that helped form the floor of a new office build-

work was considered non-traditional jobs for women. Now, all of that has changed as women join the construction fields. It's hard work. Olivia McMahon, Amanda Wathogoma and Rebecca Sellers all of YAN, have joined the construction academy which will bring them



Construction training.

that want us to do construction classes and we're in heavy demand. We're trying to do more tribal construction classes and we're also working in the state prisons," said Mr. Eylicio about the success of the Gila Community College program at state prison complex located in Globe.

It was through the connection of Corey Foster, a training coordinator for the Arizona Department of Highway

gram are: Rebecca Sellers, Amanda Wathogoma, Jonathan Pike, Sydney Lewis, Patrick Romero, Michael Kewanimptewa, Anthony Trujillo, Marcus James and Olivia McMahon.

If you are interested in learning this exciting trade and or sign up to join the YAN Construction Academy please contact T.E.R.O. Officer Brian Kelley 928-567-1062.

Beyond the call of duty

BY DON DECKER,
YAN News

Jerry Periera works for the Fleet Department for the Nation.

Most of his time is spent maintaining the vehicles in tip-top shape by cleaning them. This involves vacuuming the insides out, washing the outside, waxing them sometimes, shining the tires up and cleaning the windows.

However, there are occasions where Jerry may get a miracle to perform a miracle. Like

the first week in July when Nation member Suzanna Ruiz dropped her car keys down the administration building elevator shaft from the second floor. Yes, it's one of those things that happens by pure chance—accidentally dropping a set of car keys through an opening of 1.75" on the elevator floor.

The odds of possibly winning a giant teddy bear at the state fair for tossing 3 softballs in a wooden basket from 8 feet away is more prob-

able than tossing a set of keys down the elevator shaft through a small opening.

So, 'who you gonna call?' says the theme from Ghost Busters movie. You call the Fleet Office-Jerry Periera.

Suzanna appeared distraught without her car keys and a child in tow that day.

Never fear.

Periera brought what most people would call a 'gizmo', a stiff metal rod as thick as a car radio antennae that had a small magnet on the

end. With the help of Trina Bentley from the AG's office who shined her cell phone flashlight down the darkened elevator shaft Jerry made contact with the set of keys some 36" down the floor of the elevator shaft and lassoed the keys with the magnetic device.

It's the work of an expert and Jerry saves the day for Suzanna Ruiz, daughter of Vonda Smith of Camp Verde.



Performing a miracle fishing out a set of car keys in an elevator shaft.