



MEDIA RELEASE

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Employers Honored for Providing Construction Internships *Local firms help students of CRT's Capital City YouthBuild*

Community Renewal Team's Capital City YouthBuild thanked five local firms on May 12 for their support of low-income students who are learning the construction trade. These employers have provided internships where youth work and learn alongside professional peers, for a minimum of 25 hours per week.

At an event held at The Metropolitan District's training center, CRT students presented plaques to Jeffrey Mongillo of Manafort Brothers Inc.; Michael Jefferson of MDC - The Metropolitan District; Mark Swiatowiec of New England Construction; Jerado Reynolds of Reynolds Welding & Fabrication; and Donna Campise of Tymatt Excavation.

"We're very impressed with these young people," said Swiatowiec. Referring to Myesha Anderson, age 19, he said, "Within two weeks, she will be driving a huge milling machine down Franklin Avenue." All of the firms said that they would accept YouthBuild interns in the future, and recommend this program to others in the industry.

YouthBuild is a national model that provides academic support, vocational skills and case management to out-of-school youth, helping them get back on track and gainfully employed. The CRT program offers two career tracks: Certified Nursing Assistants and construction careers. Classroom and field experiences help prepare the students for success in their internships.

"Our students can be real assets to the employers. By the time they go out to their construction internships, they have their OSHA-10 certificates and have completed their Home Builders Institute (HBI) PACT certification," said Christopher McCluskey, the Vice President of Housing and Community Services for CRT.

Jefferson of MDC, who serves on the YouthBuild Advisory Council, helped to line up potential employers to take interns. The YouthBuild program pays a stipend that covers 25 hours per week for the first six weeks that the student is in the placement. Additional hours are covered by the employer.

Anthony Mendoza has been placed at Reynolds Welding, where the owner says he has great potential. Reynolds and Swiatowiec both said they could see these students moving into positions that pay at least \$20 per hour.

For more information about Capital City YouthBuild please call Cynthia Russell at 860-560-5308 ext. 232. For information about this and other CRT programs, go to crtct.org

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Community Renewal Team, Inc. is the designated Community Action Agency for Middlesex and Hartford Counties and is the largest non-profit provider of human services in Connecticut. The agency's mission is Preparing Our Community to Meet Life's Challenges. The mission is achieved each day by helping people and families change their lives and create their own opportunities in becoming self-reliant while making sure basic needs are met. CRT's programs include Head Start, Meals on Wheels, energy assistance, supportive housing and shelters, and many others, serving people in more than 60 cities and towns in both our core catchment area and throughout Connecticut. Visit the www.crtct.org.



From left: Myesha Anderson, placed at New England Construction
Christopher McCluskey, Vice President of Housing and Community Services, CRT
Michael Jefferson, Diversity Manager, MDC-The Metropolitan District
Mark Swiatowiec of New England Construction
Jeffrey Mongillo of Manafort Brothers, Inc.
Donna Campise of TyMatt Excavation, Inc.
Jerado Reynolds of Reynolds Welding & Fabrication
Cynthia Russell, Capital City YouthBuild Program Manager
Anthony Mendoza, placed at Reynolds Welding & Fabrication