



## OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

CITY OF SCHENECTADY  
NEW YORK

City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Rm 111  
Schenectady, N.Y. 12305-1938  
Office: (518) 382-5000  
Cell: (518) 424-0483  
Fax: (518) 382-5272  
[gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov](mailto:gmccarthy@schenectadyny.gov)

Gary R. McCarthy  
Mayor

**For Release: Immediate**  
**Date: April 24, 2018**

### **PRESS RELEASE**

## *City of Schenectady and Local Partners Launch Economic Opportunity Plan*

*New Public-Private Partnership to Include Job Training for Local Residents and Construction Management Training for Small Firms*

**SCHENECTADY** – Mayor Gary McCarthy and City of Schenectady Affirmative Action Officer Ron Gardner announced a new multi-faceted public-private partnership that includes a certified job training program for local low income residents in addition to construction management training for small and emerging firms.

The City of Schenectady and the SUNY College and Career Counseling Center (SUNY CCCC) are currently seeking 30 local applicants interested in the construction industry for the job training program.

### **Job Training Program**

To qualify for the program, residents must meet the requirements under Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Act of 1968. Public housing residents and low income individuals that reside in the City or County of Schenectady may qualify under Section 3.

Low income is defined by HUD as 80% or below the median income of the area. According to the 2011-2015 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, 78% of those living below the poverty level in Schenectady County reside in the City of Schenectady.

“Creating jobs and economic opportunity for local residents is the true spirit of any public-private partnership,” **said Mayor McCarthy**. “With all the positive ongoing economic development and infrastructure improvements in Schenectady, it is vital that we provide potentially life-changing opportunities for local residents while also helping businesses continue to grow and succeed.”

The City of Schenectady Office of Affirmative Action will provide HUD funded Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) for SUNY CCCC to oversee applicant screening, recruitment, intake, ongoing monitoring, tracking, and data collection for the job training program. SUNY CCCC will be accepting applications on an ongoing basis. The training will be of no cost to the student.

The SUNY CCCC is administered by Schenectady County Community College as part of the State University of New York's (SUNY) University Center for Academic and Workforce Development (UCAWD) which consists of ten Educational Opportunity Centers and two Career Counseling and Outreach Centers across New York State. The SUNY CCCC supports community residents looking to connect to educational pathways and employment opportunities.

Instructors certified by the National Center for Education and Research (NCCER) will teach students 125 hours of core curriculum such as basic safety, communication skills, and introduction to construction drawings, giving them skills needed to continue education in any craft area he or she chooses.

“This is an excellent opportunity for the SUNY CCCC to collaborate with the City of Schenectady to provide training and support to our local residents who want to pursue a career in the construction industry—a collaborative partnership that will impact and continue to support the economic growth right here in our community,” **said Dr. DeShawn McGarrity**, SUNY CCCC Executive Director.

### **Construction Management Training**

In addition to training local individuals for job opportunities in the construction industry, the Economic Opportunity Plan includes a Construction Management Training Program for 15 small and emerging firms taught by industry leaders from around the region. These firms will learn various aspects of contracting, and upon completion be offered a mentor-protégé program with the local candidates from the job training program.

The Construction Management Training and mentor-protégé programs will be sponsored and supervised by industry leaders such as the Association of General Contractors (AGC), the Eastern Contractors Association (ECA), the Northeastern Subcontractors Association (NESCA), the Association of Minority Enterprises of New York (AMENY), and the Community Loan Fund of the Capital Region. The Construction Management Training is a six-month program beginning in May.

“We are very proud of this program because not only are we helping firms get a better understanding of their businesses, but also looking to the competent and highly trained labor pool we are developing right here in our own community for the growth and success of their business,” **Ron Gardner said**. “Establishing solid general contractor and subcontractor relationships is imperative in overcoming the current skilled labor shortage.”

### **Community Outreach**

Income-qualified local residents seeking opportunities in the construction industry should visit SUNY CCCC on the first floor of Center City, 433 State Street, Schenectady, NY 12305. You may also call (518) 631-2257 or email [sunycccc@sunysccc.edu](mailto:sunycccc@sunysccc.edu).