



For Immediate Release

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Training Minorities and Women in Advanced construction skills for the changing economy

*The Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC)
And the Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC/CUNY)
Offer a Second Cost Estimator Training Program*

02/08/10 (New York, NY) – A Construction Cost Estimator Training Program, geared to encourage minority, female, and veteran participation in the rebuilding effort downtown, has started with 12 students. The program is a joint project of the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center (LMCCC) and Borough of Manhattan Community College (BMCC/CUNY).

Cost Estimators play a crucial role in construction by collecting and analyzing data to forecast the scope, duration or total cost of a project for their employers. Knowledge of the construction business, skills in mathematics and critical thinking are part of the curriculum. Cost Estimators evaluate tools, materials, labor costs, finances, climate and time to create the construction budget.

Robert Harvey, Executive Director of the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center said, “Despite the economic downturn, Lower Manhattan is in the midst of one of the biggest construction booms in our city’s history. We, along with BMCC, are offering this Cost Estimator Training Program again, after determining from the construction industry that positions in Cost Estimating are still in demand.”

Funded by a grant from HUD (The Department of Housing and Urban Development) through the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center’s Opportunity Downtown Program, this course will help men and women in the construction field upgrade their skills, increase their earning potential and help diversify the construction industry.

Governor David Paterson said, “Not all construction work is done with a bulldozer, a drill or a crane. The Cost Estimator’s job is to figure out how much a construction project will cost before any cement, sheetrock or steel is actually put in place. Their role in the construction process is critical to the bottom line of the project. I am pleased that women, minorities and veterans are being trained in this important field.”

Mayor Michael Bloomberg said, “The Construction Cost Estimator Training Program provides New Yorkers with valuable skills necessary for an important subset of jobs within the construction industry. Together with complimentary City initiatives, the LMCCC-led program will help promote minority, female and veteran participation in the construction industry.”

Opportunity Downtown Project Manager Beverly Bobb said, “We are working to assist the construction industry to fill its need for Cost Estimators. The class provides technical skills training to prepare students for challenging careers in the construction industry. The minorities, women and veterans who go through this program could have a role in rebuilding Lower Manhattan.”

Antonio Pérez, President of Borough of Manhattan Community College said, “With the start of this new class, BMCC, through Opportunity Downtown, is now offering two classes geared to help further the careers of people in the construction industry. We are a proud partner in this groundbreaking program.”

The Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center was established by Governor George E. Pataki and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg via joint executive order on November 22, 2004. The executive order was extended by Governor Spitzer and extended by Governor Paterson. LMCCC is charged with coordination and oversight of all Lower Manhattan construction projects south of Canal Street, river to river. The Command Center will take steps to minimize the impact of ongoing construction on residents, businesses, and workers in Lower Manhattan and will bring together private developers, public agencies, utilities, businesses, and residents in one location. In addition to its oversight and coordination responsibilities, the LMCCC and its director provide a forum for expeditious and consistent decision-making on disputes among agencies. The Executive Director reports directly to both the Governor and the Mayor

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