



REMARKS  
PRESS CONFERENCE ANNOUNCING THE LAUNCH OF THE LMCCC/BTEA/BMCC  
CONSTRUCTION PROJECT JOB SCHEDULER TRAINING PROGRAM  
DECEMBER 11, 2006

Good evening, I would like to thank you all for being here tonight as we officially launch an exciting new Construction Project Job Scheduler Training Program.

I'm Charles Maikish, Executive Director of the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center, which is the City and State agency charged with overseeing the \$22 billion worth of construction that has begun, or is about to begin in Lower Manhattan, south of Canal Street, from river- to river. Here with me tonight are our dedicated partners in the mission of advancing the representation of skilled minorities, women, and veterans in the construction industry, all of whom play an essential role in the success of this program.

Tonight you'll be hearing from, Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott, who is the Deputy Mayor for Education and Community Development; Louis Coletti, who is the President and CEO of the Building Trades Employers Association; and Antonio Pérez, who is the President of the Borough of Manhattan Community College.

Lower Manhattan is in the midst of an exciting period of rebirth and revitalization, and is about to experience what we expect will be one of the biggest construction booms in our city's history. During the next four years, over 59 major construction projects in less than one square mile of Manhattan will generate many new jobs, and we want to make certain that these jobs are filled with skilled New Yorker's, especially minorities, women, and veterans returning from war.

This Project Job Scheduler Training Program, launched at the initiative of the Building Trades Employer's Association, supported by the Lower Manhattan Construction Command Center, and conducted by CUNY's Borough of Manhattan Community College, was developed to preempt the difficulty that the construction industry as a whole may face a shortage of skilled labor, management personnel, and entry-level employees, at a time when the pace of construction is increasing considerably.

This course acts as both an opportunity to help men and women begin careers within the construction sector in an administration capacity, and to prepare men and women who have worked in the sector for several years to advance along their career ladder into an administrative capacity. Moreover, job placement assistance will be offered at the conclusion of the program.

I would now like to turn the microphone over to Deputy Mayor Dennis Walcott. Deputy Mayor Walcott oversees and coordinates the operations of the City's Department of Education and the Department of Youth and Community Development, and among many other things, is responsible for coordinating policies concerning adult education. He also serves as Co-Chair of the Mayor's Commission for Construction Opportunity, which explores strategies and sets goals for ensuring that all New Yorkers, particularly minorities, women, returning veterans and new high school graduates, are well-prepared and can gain access to good, permanent jobs in construction, in both the private and public sectors.

<DEPUTY MAYOR WALCOTT MAKES REMARKS >

Thank you Deputy Mayor Walcott, I would now like to introduce Antonio Pérez, who is the President of the Borough of Manhattan Community College. In spring 2003, Dr. Pérez was selected one of New York's top 100 minority business leaders by Crain's New York Business. Dr. Pérez has been very involved in the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU). He is treasurer of the board of directors of Hispanic Educational Telecommunications System, and the National Community College Hispanic Council. . In addition, he serves on the editorial board of *The Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education* and on the Northeast Region Board of Directors of the National Council on Black American Affairs.

<PRESIDENT PEREZ MAKES REMARKS>

Thank you President Perez, I would now like to introduce Louis Coletti, President and CEO of the Building Trades Employers Association, which represents 1,500 union construction companies doing business in New York City. Lou currently serves as Chairman of the Mayor's Building Industry Advisory Council; is a member of the Mayor's Commission on Construction Opportunities, a member of the New York State Apprenticeship Training Council, and is Chairman of the Construction Skills 2000 and Co-Chairman of the Non-Traditional Employment For Women.

<MR.COLETTI MAKES REMARKS>

Thank you Lou. Five years after the Sept. 11th attacks, Lower Manhattan continues its dramatic revival. The visualization of the plans are already taking shape and the redevelopment is providing the great people of this City and State a world class place to work, live, and play. This program is the first of many to come, that will ensure the redevelopment includes representation of a diverse group workers in the construction industry. My colleagues and I wish this first group of students here with us tonight the best of luck throughout this program, and look forward to working side by side with them for years to come