



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LEARNINGWORKS AWARDED \$50,000 TO CREATE KENNEBEC COUNTY GREEN JOB TRAINING CORPS

LearningWorks to provide green building training to 16 at-risk youth – the only such program in the state. Job applications currently being accepted.

PORTLAND – LearningWorks announced today that they have received funds to hire 16 Kennebec County youth to work with qualified contractors to weatherize homes, build new construction to green built standards, and install alternative energy equipment.

The funding originates with the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and is administered through the Central/Western Workforce Investment Board, which made the \$50,000 award.

This summer, LearningWorks will use the award to form the LearningWorks' Green Job Training Corps (GJTC) by hiring sixteen 18 to 24 year olds—many of whom are low-income, high school dropouts, and have been homeless. The eight-week GJTC program begins with one week of classroom training. After the first week, students will work on job sites throughout Kennebec County. Jobs will pay \$8.50- \$9 per hour. Applications from Kennebec County youth are currently being accepted. To request an application, email should be sent to nsewall@learningworks.me or Nancy Sewall should be called at 775-0105.

“We are honored to have received the confidence of the Central/Western Workforce Investment Board. This will be an incredible opportunity for young people in Kennebec County to gain job skills that few others in the state of Maine have.” said Ethan Strimling, CEO of LearningWorks.

The 2010 GJTC follows on the success of LearningWorks' Weatherization Corps program, which was launched in 2009 in Cumberland County. Of the 21 graduates of last year's program, 85% of graduates were placed in jobs or school within 6 months of graduation and 81% are still either in school or employed. 8 graduates are currently in college, one returned to high school and 8 are currently working (3 in construction, 2 in weatherization and 3 in other fields).

A variety of statewide and Kennebec County organizations will partner with LearningWorks to ensure the success of the Green Jobs Training Corps, including: Maine Community College; Warm Tech Solutions, BioSafe, the Maine Labor Group on Health, the local chapter of the national Association of Home Builders, Maine Energy Education Program/Efficiency Maine, Tradeworks, Safety Works DOL, the North Region of the Council of Carpenters, the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local, and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.



At the completion of the program, GJTC participants will have logged almost 200 hours of work that can go toward their Green Apprenticeship. Achieving this credential will put the GJTC participants at the cutting edge of an industry desperate for workers skilled in green building. Transition services will be provided to the youth involved in the GJTC. Further, *LearningWorks* will help with employment and advanced training options.

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LearningWorks provides the best learning opportunities in Maine for at-risk youth, the immigrant community, and low-income families.

Other programs provided by LearningWorks are:

- Youth Building Alternatives (YBA), a nationally accredited alternative high school that combines vocational training with GED attainment.
- Back on Track, a program that uses cognitive behavioral therapy to teach young people how to manage their anger and make responsible choices.
- Alternatives to Detention, a structured and supervised program focusing on therapeutic intervention and prevention for youth involved in the correctional system.
- English Language Program for new adult immigrants who need English language and cultural literacy skills.
- An after-school Learning Center serving students in grades 3-8 to provide supportive homework help and educational enrichment activities.
- The Resource Lab: an evening drop-in center for middle school students and adults to receive tutoring or help with their homework.
- An Affordable Housing program offering 50-units of renovated, comfortable family housing.

www.LearningWorks.me