

Flaherty & Collins accepts the challenge to help train workers in Indianapolis

Local officials recently put out an open challenge to companies and organizations across the state to do whatever they can to ensure that workers are better qualified for jobs of today and tomorrow.

In fact, officials consider the need for more workforce development as the No. 1 issue facing Indiana.

“At Flaherty & Collins we see first-hand the need for a well-trained, diverse workforce to complete jobs,” said Gordon Benner, President of Construction. “Relying on our experience working with individuals at Pathway at Amber Woods Co-Operative, we decided to start a training program. Pathway has a long history of providing programs and services that engage residents in employment, life and family skills development.”

Flaherty & Collins started a Construction Job Training Program that reaches out to all individuals to provide a series of job training classes to prepare interested individuals in construction related fields.

“We make it clear from the start to all participants that going through this training will not guarantee a job with Flaherty & Collins Properties, but will give them the necessary skills making them more marketable in their job search” Benner said.

Each class is sponsored and paid for by Flaherty & Collins Properties and offered free of charge to all attendees. Classes are limited in size to help provide individualized instruction to each participant.

The series covers five modules and discusses tips for securing jobs and finding work with subcontractors and within the construction field. The modules are:

- HVAC
- Drywalling
- Painting
- Masonry
- Flooring

Attendance at the classes was strong. The company had 24 for HVAC class, 20 for Drywall, 19 for Painting, 17 for Masonry, and 13 for Flooring. These classes are all hands-on where each participant actually does the job as if they are at a jobsite.

“We brought in experts from the Indianapolis Area to teach these courses and provide career advice to all the attendees. The attendees were diverse and we plan to continue this program in 2014. Our hope is that we can find additional partners so that we can provide these training services to more people and perhaps hand it over the Indiana Apartment Association,” Benner said.

“Our company’s success is based on our ability to attract a well-trained workforce and to build apartment homes for a wide range of citizens. We believe this program offers one small step to training the workforce in Indianapolis and lays the groundwork for a much bigger program,” he said.