

Recent Placements of LEED Council's Training Graduates

LEED Council trainees work hard to gain tangible skills to help them find permanent employment. They stay motivated and focused on meeting both their short term and long term goals. Here is a look at how some LEED Council graduates are pushing themselves to succeed!

JOHN S.

John S. came to the LEED Council in **January 2010 for Weatherization Skills** at the urge of his neighbor. He was eager to learn, impressionable, and while slightly shy, loved to ask the thoughtful questions. John had always planned on going back to school; however with only 2 years of work experience, John was determined to find himself a job where he could take on growing responsibilities and make some decisions about his career choice.

Shortly after graduating, John successfully completed cover letters and applications for positions that took him outside of his comfort zone. Despite some early concerns, and the rejections, John didn't give up and in May made it through a prescreening for **Sodexo at the Shedd Aquarium** and a chance to interview with a Hiring Manager. He blew the Manager away with his earnest and sincere attitude, and landed himself a position as a Server in the Soundings Café. John successfully managed all his job responsibilities and was asked to stay on following the summer season. In September John took the plunge and applied to University's across the Midwest in hopes of gaining admission. Just 2 weeks ago John gained acceptance to **Indiana University- Northwest** in Gary, Indiana. He is excited about the opportunity and hopes to study Journalism. As John awaits this new adventure, he continues to work at Sodexo on weekends. John credits the LEED Council for all of his success!

ELICIA L.

Elicia L. graduated LEED Council's **Computer Skills** program last year. While Elicia continued to pursue her education, Elicia **volunteered** at the LEED Council assisting with Job Readiness, Case Management and Career Development for other LEED Council Trainees. Only 6 months later while attending **Northwestern Illinois University**, Elicia landed a position with **Illinois Action for Children** as a **Family Resource Support Specialist**. She set her standards high and aspired to one day utilize her experience at the LEED Council to help her pursue her career goals at Illinois Action for Children. Just last month, Elicia got the opportunity to apply and interview for a promotion. After demonstrating her knowledge of case management, and excellent ability to work with individuals, Elicia received a promotion to **Family Resource Specialist**. Elicia knows that without the opportunities and experiences she were given at the LEED Council she would not have been able to achieve so much in such a short period of time!

CARL B.

Carl B. graduated LEED Council's **Industrial Skills program in May 2010**. Carl had shown a strong determination to succeed and an excellent work ethic; however, it was his sincere and hardworking attitude that got him selected for an interview with Harborquest

in May 2010 through the Put Illinois to Work program. Carl excelled at his job, but his unemployment had caused some problems at home. He worked hard, asked for help, and continued to stay focused on improving his situation. After 3 months at **Avon as a Utility Packager**, Carl got acceptance through a program with the **Community Trades pre-Apprenticeship Project for the Plumbing Union**. Carl has a huge journey to go on and knows that this endeavor will be a large undertaking; however, Carl is dedicated to completing each task necessary (including a dreaded Math test!), and knows that the LEED Council helped him to find this unique opportunity. While Carl waits for the paid training to begin, Carl remains at **Air One**, a cell phone company as a **Maintenance Worker** through Put Illinois to Work.

BRANDT L.

Brandt L. came to the LEED Council for **Weatherization Skills in March 2010**.

Brandt had excellent communication skills, and had a diverse background in everything from Bartending to HVAC, teaching, and retail. While still working as a bartender, Brandt felt the need to revitalize his career.

Brandt graduated the Weatherization class with a 93% on his final exam and in late July, when a Weatherization company, **Genesis Group**, came to the LEED Council looking for talented individuals with a motivation to succeed and a can do attitude, Brandt fit the bill best. He astounded them with his commitment when he showed up for his second round interview drenched head to toe, riding his bike. Genesis Group was sold and ever since, Brandt has steadily become one of their finest Weatherization workers. Brandt has been told that he will soon be promoted to Crew Chief. He feels grateful for the opportunity to prove his full capabilities and believes that this position will open up future doors for him.