

Advancing Economic Opportunity in 2008

LEED Council is a community economic & employment development corporation serving disadvantaged Chicago residents and 600 firms in the North River Corridor through direct business services and job training. Our Strategic Plan, “*Advancing Economic Opportunity*.” focuses on:



- ◆ *Business Development* to continue advocacy for local manufacturers, while striving to balance new business growth among industrial, commercial, and service firms;
- ◆ *Workforce Development* to provide skills training & job placement for low-income Chicagoans;
- ◆ *Sustainable Development* to promote environmental initiatives that advance innovative pollution-reduction strategies and green collar jobs development; and
- ◆ *Community Development* to offer financial education for workers and community residents.



Water Saver Faucet's new Goose Island facility for their Guardian Equipment line.



Current **Business Development** projects include: infrastructure improvements to mitigate traffic congestion (such as the opening of the new North Avenue Bridge by Mayor Daley in this photo); starting the Goose Island Express bus in 2007 and restoring the Clybourn bus in 2009; assisting companies, most recently Water Saver Faucet and Bigane Paving, achieve expansions; and working to redevelop the Cooper Lamp building into the Green Exchange, a “Merchandise Mart” for green businesses.

Our most recent **Sustainable Development** projects include: providing consulting services to

businesses like C.H. Robinson to implement green business plans such as providing transit vouchers for employees, instituting recycling programs, retrofitting their buildings, using low-VOC paints, and other environmentally-friendly practices; and facilitating the *Chicagoland Green Collar Jobs Initiative*, a collaboration to identify new job creation, skills training and job placement opportunities resulting from the emerging green sector.

At least 50% of the participants in our **Workforce Development** programs have multiple barriers to employment, such as a lack of marketable skills or a poor work history. Enrollees include Chicago Housing Authority residents seeking skills for employment to meet self-sufficiency and lease compliance requirements.



Computer Skills Training



Our Computer Skills Training is a 7-week, 70-hour skills training program preparing individuals for career path employment in information technology or in any position that relies on computer skills. Our trainer and our 10-station computer lab are IC3 certified, enabling us to offer IC3 prep courses and exams for this industry certification.

Since starting our Computer Skills training in January 2008, 99 students have enrolled in 14 classes; 73 have achieved training mid-point; and 68 have graduated.

Industrial Skills Training

Our Industrial Skills Training is an 11-week, 132-hour skills training program preparing individuals for full-time, head-of-household positions in manufacturing, building maintenance and repair, and the building trades. Each class builds a complete 4-sided room, wiring it for electricity and installing plumbing.

In calendar 2008, our Industrial Skills program was in its 5th year and showed a high rate of training retention with: 57 students enrolled in 6 classes; 43 reaching training midpoint; and 39 graduating from training.

LEEDers for Training is our new leadership development project for graduates of both of our skills training programs. In addition to honing their public speaking skills and providing further financial education and coaching, this initiative involves participants in recruiting for future training classes and mentoring new trainees.



Be a *LEEDer* and contribute to our Annual Finance Campaign and enable us to keep “*leeding*” the way in *Advancing Economic Opportunity* for businesses, job seekers and the emerging green economy.

Local Economic & Employment Development Council

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