



Transitional Assistance Department (TAD)

TAD and TET Partnership Provides Skills for Jobs

HS Connection Staff

Students at Technical Employment Training (TET) are learning skills that will change their lives. The San Bernardino-based manufacturing plant has a training component that serves as a classroom to the apprentices who study and work toward federal certification. The goal is for them to have certification and experience so that they can be prepared to go to work. Several of the apprentices are enrolled in the plant's machinist training classes through the Transitional Assistance Department's (TAD) Welfare to Work Program. The program provides individuals with job training in a variety of positions throughout San Bernardino County in the private and public sectors.

"Customers receive training and national certification that allows them to not only get jobs, but start careers that lead to self-sufficiency," said TAD Deputy Director Gary Watson. "We've really helped change lives in our community through our partnership with TET."

In 2013, the program provided 762 CalWORKs customers with work on the job training and job skill development. Since partnering with TET, 76 CalWORKs customers completed training and earned National Institute for Metalworking Skills certifications. Nearly half went on to work in the industry.

"Technical Employment Training is an advanced manufacturing training facility that really combines industry work from the commercial and aerospace world and certifies students to be prepared to go to work in high technology positions," said Bill Clarke, president of TET.

Students are able to learn critical job skills as they fill orders for major corporations.

"There were things that I knew I needed to learn because they are what would get me the higher pay wage and I have been able to obtain those things here," said Leonard Ahumada. "It is everything that I have needed that I am going to be able to use in a real life work environment."

On a personal level, students have found value in what they are learning.

"This program has helped me tremendously because it has given me a sense of worth and it has shown me that I am capable of doing things that I did not know I was capable of doing," said Gilbert Reyes.

Teaching the students job skills can enhance the County on multiple levels.

"If we can take people in this community and transform them with high technology skills, we can actually take them from a poverty state of mind and put them in prosperity where they are actually taxpayers for this county," said Clarke. "Companies will actually see that we have a skilled workforce and you will see more companies come into San Bernardino."

County of San Bernardino
Human Services



HS Connection Newsletter