



# Training News

A quarterly newsletter from the Northern California Laborers' Training Center Issue No. 52 • Winter 2005

## Laborers' Training Center on the forefront of adapting to new technology in construction

It's a whole new world out there. Where once Laborers were known for wielding picks and shovels, today they may be found setting up a laser to help establish grade, guiding a sophisticated remote-controlled camera to inspect a pipe or manning the controls of a machine that bores tunnels for pipe deep underground without disturbing the surface.

As new technology and techniques continue to

That's where training comes in, says Moreno, who is also chairman of the Laborers' Training & Retraining Trust Fund for Northern California. "Before you use a new tool," Moreno says, "you must first learn how to use it safely."

In recent years, the Laborers' Training Center has adopted new technology long before it has come into widespread use in the construction industry.

The use of lasers on construction sites, while now becoming common, was not the case when they first debuted at the Training Center a few years back.

More recently, new remote-controlled flagging units have been acquired by the Training Center, and a hydraulic monopod jackhammer that dazzled attendees at trade shows this year is now a standard feature of concrete classes.

In October, in conjunction with the Laborers-AGC Education and Training Fund and the Minnesota Laborers' Training Fund, a class was held in San Ramon training members on the use of a remote-controlled TV camera pipe inspection system.

Also this year, through a partnership between Laborers' Local 185 and a signatory contractor, Royal Electric, training in the use of the latest directional drilling equipment was conducted at the new satellite campus in West Sacramento.

Even more conventional training is benefiting from the commitment to modernization. A \$100,000 overhaul of the pipe yard at the San Ramon campus will result in a more real-world training experience for those who take the pipe and shoring class. Trainees will now be exposed to modern speed-shoring, mobile trench shields, manhole boxes and steel round manhole boxes.

"At every opportunity, we want training to closely



**A trainee views an image of the inside of a sewage pipe as part of the training using remote-controlled television cameras.**

revolutionize the world of construction, the Laborers' Training Center prides itself on staying ahead of the curve.

"Everyone knows Laborers are the most versatile and adaptable workers on the jobsite," says José Moreno, Business Manager of the Northern California District Council of Laborers. "More and more, however, Laborers are called upon to use new and complex tools and machinery to help them work safer and more effectively."

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resemble the conditions workers will encounter on a jobsite,” says Training Board Co-chairman Gil Crosthwaite, Vice President of Industrial Relations for A. Teichert & Sons.

Crosthwaite said the training benefits those new to the craft, but also those experienced hands who want to stay current in a rapidly changing field.

Training Director Vic Macias says signatory contractors not only benefit from better trained workers, but also get to see the latest equipment in action. Macias recalls how one signatory contractor observed trainees in San Ramon easily mastering a new type of concrete vibrator

“The contractor was very impressed with our new units,” Macias says. “He said his equipment was much harder for his employees to operate. He told me, ‘I’ve got to get some of those.’” ■



**Instructor Frank Hardman and trainees gather around a van that contains equipment to inspect underground pipes using remote-controlled, closed-circuit television cameras.**

## **Laborers’ Training Center leads the way in lead remediation training**

**T**he Laborers’ Training Center recently achieved the distinction of being the first school in California to be approved by the state Department of Health Services to teach a new model curriculum for lead remediation.

The state Department of Health Services (DHS), Childhood Lead Prevention Branch, regulates all lead remediation training in California and is the only entity that can issue Lead Worker cards that must be carried by workers doing lead remediation work. The cards indicate that the holder has successfully completed a minimum of 24-hours of instruction, which includes a hands-on component, and has passed a multiple-choice test. The cards must be renewed annually.

Only schools and instructors approved by DHS may teach lead worker classes and request lead worker cards from DHS.

DHS has recently embarked on an ambitious plan to standardize the curriculum for lead instruction

in California, which would require that all schools teach a “model” curriculum developed by DHS. After numerous revisions and input from the Laborers’ Training Center and other schools, the department is in the process of transitioning dozens of training providers in California over to the new curriculum.

In October, the Laborers’ Training Center received official word that it was the first in California to complete all the steps necessary to teach the model curriculum. The steps included having Training Director Vic Macias and Instructor Rafael Cerda attend a “train-the-trainer” course and for Cerda to conduct the class under the watchful eye of a DHS auditor.

“The Laborers’ Training & Retraining Trust Fund for Northern

California was the first accredited training provider to teach the (Lead) Worker three-day course using the Model Work 3 Day course curriculum,” said DHS auditor Rick Votava in a letter to Training Director Vic Macias. “Congratulations!” ■



**Trainees in a recent Lead Worker Certification class practice encapsulating simulated harmful materials.**

# Two former apprentices achieve success

By Valerie Eterovich

**O**n the surface, Clifford Dawson and Kenneth Judice have a lot in common. Both are recent graduates of the Laborers' Apprenticeship Program in Northern California. Both are working for Kiewit Pacific Co. on the massive Benicia Bridge project. And both have been promoted to "Foremen-in-Training/Leadmen."

But that's where the similarities end. Dawson and Judice have taken distinctly different paths to achieve their current success. Their stories illustrate that, with hard work and dedication, a person can go a long way in a hurry in the fast-moving world of construction.

Dawson is no stranger to hard work. He started at the age of 10 helping his father with concrete jobs. Later, in addition to attending high school, he was active in ROTC. He was upbeat, stayed out of trouble and emulated his father's positive work ethic.

Upon graduating from high school, Dawson went to work for the California Conservation Corps (CCC). While at the CCC, he attended a presentation about the Laborers' Apprenticeship Program. He filled out an application and soon found himself in class learning the fundamentals of Laborers' work as an apprentice.

After spending a year with Teichert Construction, Dawson was dispatched to Kiewit Pacific to work on the Benicia Bridge. Kiewit was so impressed with Dawson's performance that, within two months of graduating from the Apprenticeship Program, he was promoted to "Foreman in Training/Leadman."

Judice, meanwhile, earned success via a much different path. At age 12, he found himself in Juvenile Hall. From there he went to several youth camps and later joined up with a violent street gang. That eventually led to a federal penitentiary where Judice served 8 1/2 years for bank robbery.

When Judice was released from prison, he knew he needed to turn his life around. He moved to Northern California and started to pursue a career

in construction. Although his grandfather had been an Ironworker, Judice believed he would have more opportunities if he joined the Laborers' Union.

After applying to be an Apprentice Laborer and attending an orientation, Judice was accepted into the Apprenticeship Program. While working on the Carquinez Bridge for FCI Construction, Judice developed a true love for the work. In fact, his pride was so evident that he was interviewed by a film crew that was making a documentary of the bridge. After the completion of the project, Judice attended the dedication ceremony and reflected on how much his life has changed for the better after a rough start.

Both Dawson and Judice are receiving rave reviews from their superintendents. Dawson's superintendent, Ed Taylor, commented that he was pleased with Dawson's performance from Day 1. He added that Dawson possessed the right attitude, was eager,

attentive and always on time for work.

Superintendent Pete Daniels says that Judice has always been eager to learn and always works hard. Judice looks forward to mentoring other apprentices as they learn the trade. His message to them, and anyone else who wants to learn a skill and improve their lives: "If I can do it, anyone can do it."

If you know someone who is interested in becoming a Construction Craft Laborer, we would like to hear from you. If you're an employer considering hiring or sponsoring an apprentice, give us a call. There are a lot of apprentices just like Clifford Dawson and Kenneth Judice who would welcome the opportunity to join your workforce and make a believer out of you. The Apprenticeship Program can be reached at (925) 556-0858.

Valerie Eterovich is an Apprenticeship Field Coordinator for the Northern California Laborers' Training & Retraining Trust Fund. ■



**Clifford Dawson**

**Kenneth Judice**

**TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER**  
**Schedule of Courses, SAN RAMON CAMPUS (Horario de Clases)**  
**January 3 through April 1, 2005**

<b>COURSES</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>LENGTH</b>	<b>PREREQUISITE</b>
<b>APPRENTICESHIP</b>			
Apprenticeship Initial	January 10 – January 28 January 31 – February 18 February 22 – March 11 March 14 – April 1	3 Weeks Each	Registered Apprentices
Apprenticeship Follow-up	January 17 – January 28 February 7 – February 18 February 28 – March 11 March 14 – March 25	2 Weeks Each	Registered Apprentices
<b>CONSTRUCTION</b>			
Concrete Techniques	January 3 – January 14	2 Weeks	N/A
Fundamentals of Construction	February 14 – February 25	2 Weeks	N/A
Grade Checking	January 3 – January 7	1 Week	N/A
Pipe Laying Techniques	January 17 – January 28	2 Weeks	N/A
Plaster Tender/Hod Carrier	February 14 – March 4	3 Weeks	N/A
<b>WELDING</b>			
MIG/TIG Welding Orientation	January 3 – January 14	2 Weeks	<b>1,000 hours worked</b>
Basic Arc Welding	February 22 – April 1	6 Weeks	<b>1,000 hours worked</b>
Advanced Arc Welding	February 22 – April 1	6 Weeks	<b>2,000 hours worked; complete Basic Welding Class</b>
Oxy Torch Cutting	January 20 February 3 March 10 (Bilingual) March 16	1 Day Each	N/A
<b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>			
Hazardous Waste Removal	January 3 – January 7 February 28 – March 4	1 Week	<b>200 hours worked</b>
Hazardous Waste Recertification	January 10 February 3 February 22 March 17 March 21	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Lead Worker Certification (English)	January 31 – February 2 March 14 – March 16	3 Days	N/A
Lead Worker Recertification (English)	January 13 February 4 March 18	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Lead Worker Certification (Spanish)	February 14 – February 17 March 28 – March 31	4 Days	N/A

**TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER**  
**Schedule of Courses, SAN RAMON CAMPUS (Horario de Clases)**  
**January 3 through April 1, 2005**

<b>ENVIRONMENTAL continued</b>			
Lead Worker Recertification (Spanish)	January 11 February 23 March 22	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Worker Recertification (English)	January 12 February 24 March 23	1 Day Each	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Worker Recertification (Spanish)	January 14 February 25	1 Day	Valid Certificate
Asbestos Worker Certification (Spanish)	January 17 – January 21 March 7 – March 11	1 Week Each	N/A
Asbestos Worker Certification (English)	February 7 – February 11	1 Week	N/A
Mold Remediation	March 24 – March 25	2 Days	N/A
<b>SPECIAL COURSES</b>			
Aerial Work Platform	January 3 – January 4 February 14 – February 15 March 30 – March 31	2 Days Each	N/A
Air Track Drilling Orientation	January 17 – January 21	1 Week	N/A
Air Track Drilling	January 24 – February 11	3 Weeks	Complete 1-Week Orientation
Blue Print Reading Orientation	March 21 – March 22	2 Days	N/A
Concrete Cutting & Boring	March 28 – March 29	2 Days	N/A
Confined Space	March 28	1 Day	N/A
Fire Watch	March 2	1 Day	N/A
First Aid/CPR	January 18 February 1 March 8 (Bilingual) March 14 April 1 March 31 (Bilingual)	1 Day Each	N/A
First Aid/CPR ( <b>Evening</b> )	February 18 ( <b>5:30 p.m. start</b> )	1 Evening	N/A
Flagger Certification	January 17 January 31 March 7 (Bilingual)	1 Day Each	N/A
Flagger Certification ( <b>Evening</b> )	February 15 ( <b>5:30 p.m. start</b> )	1 Evening	N/A
Forklift Certification (Intermediate)	January 5 – January 7 February 16 – February 18	3 Days Each	Experience Recommended
OSHA 10-Hour	February 14 February 22	1 10-hour Day	N/A

**TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER**  
**Schedule of Courses, SAN RAMON CAMPUS (Horario de Clases)**  
**January 3 through April 1, 2005**

<b>SPECIAL COURSES continued</b>			
Forklift Certification (Advanced)	January 21 February 4 March 11 (Bilingual) March 17 March 29	1 Day	Experience Required
Refinery Safety (BATC)	February 14 February 28	1 Day Each	Basic English Proficiency
Rigging and Signaling	January 31 – February 4 March 28 – April 1	1 Week	N/A
Scaffold User	March 7 March 9 March 11	1 Day Each	N/A
Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Orientation (Intermediate)	February 23 – February 25 March 23—March 25	3 Days	Experience Recommended
Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Certification (Advanced)	March 18 March 30 (Bilingual)	1 Day	Experience Required
Traffic Control	January 19 February 2 March 9 (Bilingual) March 15 April 1 (Bilingual)	1 Day	N/A
Traffic Control ( <b>Evening</b> )	February 16 – February 17 <b>(5:30 p.m. start)</b>	2 Evenings	N/A

**Directions to the San Ramon Training Center:**

Take the ALCOSTA BOULEVARD WEST exit off Highway 680. After you cross the intersection at San Ramon Valley Boulevard, the road changes to Westside Drive. Stay in the straight-ahead lane and look on your left for the large sign and gate leading to the Training Center. Proceed up the hill to the Administration building (on the left).

San Ramon Training Center address is:  
 1001 Westside Drive  
 San Ramon, California 94583-4098

San Ramon Training Center: (925) 828-2513  
 FAX is (925) 828-6142  
 E-mail: [training@norcalaborers.org](mailto:training@norcalaborers.org)

**Directions to the West Sacramento Training Center:**

Take the HARBOR BOULEVARD exit off U.S. 50/Business 80 towards Harbor Boulevard/Port of Sacramento. Continue on Harbor Boulevard for approximately 1/2 mile. At the Industrial Boulevard intersection at the entrance to the Port, make a right and continue a half mile on Industrial. The entrance to the Laborers' Training Center is on your left at a yellow pole gate. Follow the signs to the Administration Building.

West Sacramento Training Center address is:  
 2901 Industrial Boulevard  
 West Sacramento, CA 95691-3419

West Sacramento Training Center: (916) 375-0191  
 FAX is (916) 375-0227  
 E-mail: [training@norcalaborers.org](mailto:training@norcalaborers.org)

**TERENCE J. O'SULLIVAN LABORERS' TRAINING CENTER**  
**Schedule of Courses, WEST SACRAMENTO CAMPUS (Horario de Clases)**  
**January 3 through April 1, 2005**

<b>COURSES</b>	<b>DATES</b>	<b>LENGTH</b>	<b>PREREQUISITE</b>
<b>APPRENTICESHIP</b>			
Apprenticeship Initial	January 31 – February 18	3 Weeks	Registered Apprentices
Concrete Cutting & Boring	January 3 – January 4 March 14 – March 15	2 Days	N/A
Concrete Techniques	January 10 – January 21	2 Weeks	N/A
Fundamentals of Construction	March 21 – April 1	2 Weeks	N/A
<b>SPECIAL</b>			
Aerial Work Platform	January 5 – January 6 March 16 – March 17	2 Days	N/A
Blue Print Reading Orientation	February 7 – February 8	2 Days	N/A
First Aid/CPR Certification	January 4 February 1 March 18	1 Day Each	N/A
First Aid/CPR ( <b>Evening</b> )	March 11	1 Evening <b>(5:30 p.m. start)</b>	N/A
Fire Watch	March 9 March 30	1 Day	N/A
Grade Checking Orientation	February 14 – February 18	1 Week	N/A
Flagger Certification	January 3	1 Day Each	N/A
Flagger Certification ( <b>Evening</b> )	March 8 (5:30 p.m. start)	1 Evening <b>(5:30 p.m. start)</b>	N/A
Forklift Certification (intermediate)	February 9 – February 11	3 Days	Experience Recommended
Forklift Recertification	January 7 February 4	1 Day	Experience Required
OSHA 10 Hour	January 31 February 22 March 7	1 10-Hour Day	N/A
Refinery Safety (BATC)	March 7 March 28	1 Day	N/A
Rigging & Signaling	February 28 – March 4	1 Week	N/A
Scaffold User	February 3	1 Day Each	N/A
Skid-Steer Loader (Bobcat) Orientation (Intermediate)	February 23 – February 25	3 Days	Experience Recommended
Traffic Control	February 2	1 Day Each	N/A
Traffic Control ( <b>Evening</b> )	March 9 – March 10	2 Evenings <b>(5:30 p.m. start)</b>	N/A



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## Training News

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1001 Westside Drive  
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### Mobile Training Unit available

In order to make training more convenient for members of the Laborers' Union and its and signatory contractors in Northern California, the Terence J. O'Sullivan Laborers' Training Center is now taking reservations for its Mobile Training Unit.

The state-of-the-art portable classroom can be brought to Local Union offices, construction sites or anywhere else that training for Construction Craft Laborers is needed. Most training classes offered through the Mobile Training Unit are one-day (8-hour) classes. The Laborers' Training Center provides the instructor(s), course materials and equipment. Certificates for trainees who successfully complete a class are generally mailed directly to the trainee within one week.

Contact Vic Macias at the Laborers' Training Center in San Ramon for the current list of classes and dates when the Mobile Training Unit is available. He can be reached at (925) 828-2513, or via e-mail at: [training@norcalaborers.org](mailto:training@norcalaborers.org)