

Sisters in the Brotherhood Pre-Apprentice Program Sees New Graduates



Hudson Valley, NY, Pre-Apprenticeship graduates (l-r) Christina Pistone, Shennel Brown and Emily Engler.

The North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters and the North Atlantic States Carpenters Training Fund held its annual Sisters in the Brotherhood (SIB) Pre-Apprentice Program at the NYS training facilities this May and June.

The eight-week program, gave participants a chance to learn some carpentry basics and take their first steps towards becoming union carpenters. More than 20 women graduated from the program this year, bringing the total number of program participants to approximately 150 since its inception.

Ciara Williams, participated in Syracuse and said “I found out about the program through my school, Corcoran High School. They were offering the program to students and I thought it would be a great opportunity, because I didn't know what I wanted to do after high school, and I loved building little small projects throughout my house. I was introduced to new people that I can call friends and I learned a lot such as metal framing, wood framing, and ceilings. Overall, it was an amazing experience.”

Our mission is to strengthen the NY workforce and to do this with the women who can come through this program, learn the skills of being exceptional carpenters, makes it a great day, every day.

— CRICKETT THOMAS-O'DELL
WDI Statewide Pre-Apprentice
Program Coordinator/Director of
Community Engagement

The Workforce Development Institute (WDI), provides grant funding for the SIB program and has been instrumental in the success of the program. “We are so proud to be a part of the Sisters in the Brotherhood program,” says Crickett Thomas-O'Dell, WDI Statewide Pre-Apprentice Program Coordinator/ Director of Community Engagement. “Being able to fund an opportunity for women, specifically women, to get into carpentry is something that we feel is a part of our mission. Our mission is to strengthen the NY workforce and to do this with the women who can come through this program, learn the skills of being exceptional carpenters, makes it a great day, every day.”

With this program, more women continue to have the opportunity to join the Carpenters union and work towards a successful career. Nicole Grodner, Carpenters Local 290 Council Representative and New York Chair of the Sisters in the Brotherhood Committee states “Our union is committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion in the building trades. The Sisters in the Brotherhood Pre-Apprentice Program was created to open the doors of opportunity for women who may not have considered a career in carpentry. We look forward to supporting new members as they begin their career as union carpenters.”