



For Immediate Release

January 13, 2010

Registration Underway for Free Program Offering Older Teens, Young Adults GED Preparation and Construction Job Opportunities

***--Operation Reconstruct, a 14-week work-readiness program,
starts January 25 in Sussex County--***

Georgetown, Delaware—Registration is underway for Operation Reconstruct, a free 14-week work-readiness and pre-apprenticeship certificate program developed by the Home Builders Institute (HBI) and Paxen Learning. The program starts January 25 in Sussex County and is designed to provide older teens and young adults with GED test preparation and home-building construction training and employment opportunities.

Operation Reconstruct is open to all community members ages 17-21 who both lack a high school or general equivalency diploma and who meet Workforce Investment Act requirements. For more information and to register, contact Paxen's Dan Ashman, site manager, 302-344-2305, or HBI's Bill McCleaf, home builder instructor, 302-542-0771.

The program consists of five weeks of employability and life skills training and four weeks of GED test preparation. During the final five weeks of the program, participants are placed at job sites at which they apply their construction skills under the guidance of instructors and potential employers. In all, participants learn worksite safety and proper use of tools; build essential skills in residential carpentry, electrical wiring, plumbing, maintenance, landscaping and brick masonry; and improve their use of construction math and workplace communications.

Upon successful completion of Operation Reconstruct, participants will have earned their GED credential along with a nationally-recognized pre-apprenticeship certificate. Of note, participants also are eligible to receive job-placement assistance and payment for successful completion of the program.

In addition to the Home Builders Institute and Paxen Learning, Operation Reconstruct also includes support and participation from the Delaware Workforce Investment Board, the First State Community Action Center, Habitat for Humanity, and Milford Housing Association.

The program, which is offered in a number of states across the United States, is in its third year of operation in Sussex County.

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About Paxen Learning

Paxen Learning specializes in developing and delivering outcome-based educational programs that build academic and employability skills for at-risk youths and adults. Each year, thousands graduate from Paxen programs on their journey toward meaningful employment. The company currently operates 25 programs in 10 states. Its clients and partners include the American Hotel and Lodging Association, Blackboard, Department of Defense, Department of Juvenile Justice, Indiana University High School, Home Builders Institute, National Guard Bureau, The Florida and Hawaii National Guards, state Departments of Labor, and local Workforce Investment Boards. The 25-year-old private, for-profit company is headquartered in Melbourne, Florida, with offices in Tallahassee, Florida, and Maui, Hawaii.

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