



*News from*  
Office of the Mayor

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**June 18, 2009**

## **OAKLAND'S MODEL GREEN JOBS CORPS TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATES HISTORIC FIRST CLASS**

OAKLAND - The inaugural class of the Oakland Green Jobs Corps will graduate from a nine-month job-training pipeline program that provides "green-collar" skills training and jobs to young adults with barriers to employment on June 22nd, 2009 at the Laney College Theater (900 Fallon St, Oakland, Calif. 94607) at 4:00pm. In attendance will be Oakland Mayor Ron Dellums, Oakland Green Jobs Corps trainees, and advocates of the training partnership including the Ella Baker Center for Human Rights.

The historic Oakland Green Jobs Corps program is a partnership with the City of Oakland, under the leadership of Mayor Dellums, and comprised of three agencies: Laney College, Cypress Mandela Training Center, and Growth Sector, Inc. Together, they form a landmark partnership that has provided world-class job training, environmental education, and connections to green jobs to the inaugural class of 40 low-income East Bay residents, with more than half of the participants coming from Oakland. Students learned green construction skills, solar installation, energy efficiency techniques, and more. The program is based on the research and workforce development model created by Professor Raquel Pinderhughes of San Francisco State University.

"The Oakland Green Jobs Corps embraces a very simple, yet extraordinarily elegant idea: fight poverty and fight pollution simultaneously," said Mayor Dellums. "Watching these young people graduate will be one more arrow in the quiver as we attempt to address these very important issues. Think about these young people who are graduating as the astronauts of the green revolution. They are on the cutting edge. They are the individuals who will stand there as the first people in the battle to reclaim this planet."

Laney College, a partner of the program, has played a critical role in providing the background "green" education needed for green-collar employment with a focus on ecology, environmental sustainability, and environmental justice.

"Laney College is proud to join with the Oakland Green Jobs Corps on one of the most important issues of our time, the 'greening' of our economy," said Laney College president Frank Chong. "Our historic partnership is just in its infant stage, but already making a difference in many lives. This effort will have a positive, long-lasting impact on our environment."

**(More)**

Initial phase of instruction took place at the Cypress Mandela Training Center, a nationally renowned pre-apprenticeship program that has decades of experience training and educating young adults with barriers to employment. Cypress Mandela has provided pre-employment training and an introduction to the tools and techniques of the skilled trades, GED preparation, life skills, basic academic skills, and financial management training.

"We are able to help some of our most disadvantaged residents access much needed jobs by providing an important curriculum, which included both classroom and hands-on instruction," said Art Shanks, Executive Director of the Cypress Mandela Training Center, Inc. "It's a win-win for the environment and the future of Oakland."

Oakland-based Ella Baker Center for Human Rights has played a lead role in instigating the Oakland Green Jobs Corps project. The pioneering center was actively involved in designing, championing, and winning city funding for the Oakland Green Jobs Corps, in collaboration with Mayor Dellums and the Oakland City Council. Part social enterprise, part think-tank, and part grassroots advocate, the Green-Collar Jobs Campaign at the Ella Baker Center advocates for a green economy in California strong enough to lift people out of poverty.

"This is an historic day for Oakland and the country as a whole," said Ian Kim, Director of the Ella Baker Center's Green-Collar Jobs Campaign. "The Oakland Green Job Corps is providing new opportunities and hope to many families and young people of the Bay Area by providing the training needed for dignified careers in the burgeoning green economy."

Providing green "pathways out of poverty," the Oakland Green Job Corps has served 40 trainees facing barriers to employment that include low-income status, criminal background, and varied educational levels at no charge to the trainees.

The participating businesses who will provide employment opportunities to the trainees include Solar City, Sunlight & Power, Swinerton, Canyon Construction, Federal Building Company, REC Solar, Weather Tight, Sungevity, Dan Antonioli Construction.

WHEN: June 22, 2009 at 4:00 PM

WHERE: Laney College Theater 900 Fallon St, Oakland, CA, 94607

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**For more information on Mayor Ron Dellums and the City of Oakland, please visit and bookmark the following Web accounts:**

 : <http://www.youtube.com/ronalddellums>

 : <http://www.facebook.com> "Mayor Ronald V. Dellums"

 : <http://web.me.com/mayorrondellums>

  
CITY OF  
OAKLAND: <http://www.mayorrondellums.org>

