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Pre-Apprenticeship to Increase Number of Women in Building Construction Trades

MADISON, October 1, 2018 -- A building construction trades pre-apprenticeship series geared toward women is now accepting applications for the spring 2019 cohort. Free of cost to 20 qualified women, the 4-week, 44-hour series is designed to orient and place women in construction jobs.

The pre-apprenticeship series will center content around opportunities available in the construction industry as well as create overt, coordinated efforts to recruit women into the trades, acknowledging that they can find excellent careers as cement masons, heavy equipment operators, sprinkler fitters and more.

Currently, the construction industry is experiencing a worker shortage. Women now comprise 3% of the industry's trades workforce, making them a demographic that can help the industry grow. In October, a marketing campaign will launch to recruit women for Madison Women In Trades and promote the trades as a career pathway for women.

"Moving the needle forward concerning women's participation in building trades occupations will not be done by one non-profit, union, company, government or educational entity. It will be a combined endeavor implementing innovations and leveraging resources," said Heidi Wagner, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin Department of Labor Education and director of the pre-apprenticeship trades program.

The series is part of an applied research project supported by WiSys and UW System funding programs. Partners include the Workforce Development Board of South Central Wisconsin and other industry and community organizations.

Only 20 spots are available for the series. Women interested in applying or who have questions should contact the UW-Madison School for Workers at 608-265-4923.

NOTE: The views expressed in this press release are those of the author and not necessarily those of WiSys or the UW System.

About the UW School for Workers

Founded in 1925, the School for Workers is the oldest, continuously-operated university-based labor education program in the United States. One of the first operational components of the Wisconsin Idea, the School, its faculty and its staff have long brought three components - teaching, research and outreach - to thousands of workers, unions and employers throughout Wisconsin and beyond.