

Women Building Futures Safely

Saturday, April 26, 2008

9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Room B112

Kelowna Campus, KLO Road

PD workshops:

- Conflict resolution on the job site
- Work safe practices
- Strength training
- First Response



Free admission • Free lunch

Door prizes for all participants

To register contact the Trades & Apprenticeship Office 1-800-621-3038



DANIEL J. BROWN



Celebrating Women in Trades

Continuing the Education

Okanagan College continues to experience growth in Trades and Apprenticeship programs. Among this growth in trades are women students and apprentices. More than 300 women have taken their trades training at Okanagan College this year, a significant change from a few years back.

To celebrate and acknowledge women in the trades, Okanagan College and Work Safe BC are collaborating on a professional development event for women entitled, Women Building Futures Safely. This event is an opportunity for women in trades to network, socialize and attend a number of interactive and exciting professional development workshops.

"In the last five years we have seen tremendous interest in the trades at Okanagan College," said Pat Dandeneau, Manager for Apprenticeship Programs. "In 2004 we provided training for 800 apprentices and in 2007 we provided training for 2,200 apprentices. This increase is significant and certainly a result of the changing perception of the value of careers in the trades."

Due to the overall increase in trades training and the greater participation of women in the trades, the Women Building Futures Safely event will offer three relevant workshops for participants: Non-violent Crisis Intervention, Strength Training and Work Safe Practices.

The Non-violent Crisis Intervention workshop will teach participants the principles and techniques that have proven effective in resolving potentially violent situations. This workshop focuses on the care, welfare, safety and security of everyone involved in a crisis situation on the job. "I have taught this workshop to hundreds of colleagues and students and this program has something valuable for every participant," said Tim Dorn, Okanagan College instructor for the workshop.

A Strength Training program will also be a part of this event. Lindy Monahan, a professional tradesperson and instructor at Okanagan College realized that increasing her strength and keeping fit were mandatory especially growing up in a houseful of men and later entering into a physically demanding career in the trades.

"When teaching women I always emphasize the need to do daily strength and stretching exercises to prevent injuries," said Lindy. "My 20 years of experience in trades have been accident and injury free and this can be attributed in part to being fit. Fitness on the job allows me more avenues for opportunity; I am capable of taking on bigger and more difficult jobs because of this strength component. Fitness adds to my confidence level and to my employer's view of my abilities."

Okanagan College

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"In some of the jobs I have performed my safety was directly linked to my physical prowess. Coming from an elite level of sport in Canada has enabled me to take on any task asked of me in the trades."

Staff from Work Safe BC will also be on hand along with colleague Mary-Jaye Salmon, a Work Safe BC Occupational Safety Officer who will assist in a workshop on Safe Work Practices. Salmon has worked, taught and advocated for higher safety standards in the construction industry for close to 30 years. "Reflecting on my past work experiences, I am hoping to be able to influence other women to chose a fulfilling career in a non traditional occupation, as I have," said Mary-Jaye Salmon. Work Safe BC staff will discuss a variety of resources available to women in the trades, such as how one may receive specially designed work tools for specific accommodations.

All women working in a trade or considering the trades, and employers are welcome to attend. This event is free and lunch is provided. For more information and to register call the Okanagan College Trades office at 1-800-621-3038.