INTRO TO TRADES PROGRAM

“This program provided me with a turning point in my life.” – Jeffrey Johnson

“I want to make my family proud and set a standard for my sons.” – Ronald Gee

THE BRIDGE CONNECTING THE LABOR SKILLS GAP AND DIVERSITY IN UNIONS

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT THE EIC?

In the spring 2015, the EIC hosted the first P-4 Summit which unveiled Pittsburgh for People, Planet, Place and Performance — P-4. P-4 is an organizing framework for growing jobs, mobilizing capital, rejuvenating neighborhoods and improving lives. The framework recognized that cities like Pittsburgh will be global leaders in designing, financing and delivering imaginative solutions that leverage new economic opportunities and address large challenges around sustainability and inclusion.

The Energy Innovation Center is a national model of a P-4 Facility - this issue highlights some recent examples of our P-4 practices.

To learn more about P-4 Pittsburgh go to the P-4 website at: http://p4pittsburgh.org/pages/about-p4
The Energy Innovation Center is proud to announce that Windstax will locate their administrative offices at the EIC. WindStax Wind Power Systems is a full-service wind energy company that designs & manufactures a unique brand of large vertical axis turbines. Windstax products are sustainable and environmentally friendly, needing only a small amount of wind to generate and store power. WindStax microgrid power systems can be used for off-grid, grid-tied or supplemental power requirements.

Windstax power systems are nearly silent, eco-friendly, safe, and the rotors are made from recyclable material. The vertical axis turbines are both eye-catching and beautiful.

The location of Windstax at the EIC and the installation of a Windstax system is another example of the EIC serving as a regional and national model as a “P-4 Facility” (People, Places, Performance, Planet).

**IN THE NEWS!**

WindStax won an international competition to light up the historic Rachel Carson Bridge in Pittsburgh. Working with renowned environmental artist Andrea Polli, *WindStax® provided and installed an advanced microgrid and 16 unique wind turbines to power 27,000 LED lights on both sides of the bridge*. The digital art display spanned both sides of the 840’ structure and utilized their vertical axis turbines and nanogrids to power the exhibit entitled “Energy Flow”.

[Image of Windstax products] [Image of Rachel Carson Bridge illuminated with Windstax lights]
WindStax announced ZeroFirst as the missing link between net metered and off-grid systems seamlessly using wind energy with utility power as a backup.

In 2016 WindStax Wind Power Systems announced their ZeroFirst™ technology, which uses wind energy as the primary source of electricity calling upon utility power as a backup only if needed. Since 2013 WindStax has been quietly manufacturing and installing large vertical axis wind turbines in unexpected places. Their turbines are providing clean energy to homes, manufacturing plants, and even a trucking terminal in the Pittsburgh region. WindStax is a pioneer of microgrids, the electronics behind their unique turbines, which uses batteries to store energy to smooth cycles of supply and demand. With ZeroFirst™, the transition between power sources is seamless. Customers benefit by maximizing alternative energy investments using zero-cost and zero-carbon electricity with the reliability of public power as a last resort.

A barrier to installing alternative energy solutions is the complexities involved in selling electricity back to the grid. The Department of Energy reports there are over 2,000 public power utilities in the US. Net metering, as it is known, is regulated differently by each state utility commission who defer details of interconnection and code compliance to the local utility and municipality.
The Energy Innovation Center Institute (“EICI”) is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (“UPMC”) and the Three Rivers Workforce Investment Board (3RWIB) to provide new employee and UPMC incumbent worker training in hospital environments. This EVS Training Program will serve two critical UPMC objectives: 1) the need to fill immediate and ongoing job openings with the best qualified and diverse workforce possible, and 2) the need for more advanced training to keep ahead of the increasing standards of ‘best-in-class’ quality patient care. The 160+ hours of instruction will offer technician-level skills training in the requirements for an EVS position as well as teaching various personal life skills needed to successfully work in today’s healthcare workplace. Trainees will be part-time employees of UPMC as they begin training and will receive wages plus transportation cost support throughout the training period. Most successful graduates will be hired by UPMC on a fulltime basis with full benefits and clearly identified career ladders within the UPMC system. The EIC is transforming a portion of its “tower area” as specified by UPMC to simulate hospital environments (e.g. exam rooms, in-patient rooms, operating rooms, etc.). Program launch is projected for spring, 2017. Employment demand exceeds 200 full time jobs per year.
The third cycle of the EICI’s Surface Restoration and Treatment Program is underway (Jan 9th). Two additional cycles are planned for this year. This 180 hour training program collaborates instruction and materials supply with 5 local Corporations and 3 international supply companies. The program teaches basic competencies in the restoration and care of most surfaces typically found in commercial facilities. Additionally, the program teaches and reinforces various personal life skills needed to successfully work in today’s workplace. The program offers a stipend and bus passes during the training phase. Recent graduates of this program have secured jobs paying on average $14 per hour with starting incomes ranging as high as $35 per hour. In 2017 plans are to continue adding participating corporations and developing other training specialties.
The EICI began its fourth training session for this workforce development training program on January 16, 2017. This Program is nationally unique in that it partners with 18 local trade unions. Training includes a high concentration of student time on various construction sites and at union apprentice centers, learning specifics and “hands-on” experience. Additionally, the program teaches each participant math and personal life skills needed to successfully pass the various union apprenticeship exams.
On Saturday, November 19th Pittsburgh-area schools from every sector, including district magnet, public charter and nonpublic, joined together at the Energy Innovation Center to provide parents and families of K-12 students with information about their educational options. 44 schools were represented to provide over 300 attendees with information about their application process, the focus of their curriculum and programming, and share why parents chose their schools. A broad array of families were there to learn more – from parents with preschool age children curious about kindergarten options to parents of children in middle school looking for high school options. The Fair was co-hosted by A+ Schools and the Pennsylvania Campaign for Achievement Now (PennCAN) with the intention of bringing awareness to the educational options available to Pittsburgh-area students, and help parents understand and navigate the various application processes.
On November 17th Covestro hosted a mobile workshop at the Energy Innovation Center as part of the National League of Cities (NLC) City Summit. The workshop was entitled, “Sustainability- think globally, act locally”. The United Nations, Walid Nagi, chief of Global Compact Local Networks, gave the attendees insight into how the United Nations is transforming sustainability into action by engaging companies, NGOs, government and academia around the world. Chief Sustainability Officer for Covestro, Richard Northcote, illustrated how the company has aligned its own sustainability strategy with the Global Compact. Court Gould of Sustainable Pittsburgh highlighted how Pittsburgh is pioneering a new model to encourage local stakeholders to put sustainability into practice at the city level and Rebecca Flora of the ReMake Group reviewed efforts like the City of Pittsburgh’s P-4 initiative and the newly formed CEOs for Sustainability initiative to create a quantifiable system of metrics to inform and improve decision-making on public investments in the City. The workshop took place in the EIC’s newly renovated Covestro Bright Space providing guests panoramic views of the City.
On Thursday December 15, 2016 the EIC hosted the Hill District Holiday Mixer sponsored by Urban Innovations21 and the Hill District Community Development Corp. Attendees were able to mingle with friends and families of the community as well as to holiday shop with local business vendors. The Mixer provided 14 local entrepreneurs a venue where they could conduct business at a prime spot during the busiest shopping cycle of the year. “It’s important for people to meet and mix with local businesses. One of the outcomes of events like this Mixer is for area residents and businesses to buy from within their own community, and we wanted to make sure a variety of options exist for residents and all shoppers,” said Diamonte Z. Walker, Hill CDC Program Associate. Items found at the Mixer included handmade and custom jewelry, original art work, organic and holistic skin and body care products, clothing, fresh baked goods and an array of foods. Other sponsors in addition to the Hill CDC and Urban Innovation21 were the Hill District Consensus Group, the Hill Credit Union, the Hill House Association and the Hill YMCA. Some of the vendors included Edina Styles, Desserts Allure, Good Body Stuff, Third Day Soaps Garden, Frolicious, Beys Temple Of Natural Products, Boujie Empire and SweetHeARTed.
During the month of December the Energy Innovation Center (EIC) was honored to host the German Energiewende Exhibit, an interactive exhibition on Germany’s commitment to renewables. This exhibit was displayed at the EIC between showings in Hong Kong and the United Nations in New York. The exhibit was brought to the EIC at the suggestion of the German Bundestag Energy Subcommittee in partnership with The Deputy Consul General of the Federal Republic of Germany in New York and the German Honorary Consul in Pittsburgh. The exhibition and reception recognized Germany’s strong commitment to green energy and climate protection and focused on the transformation of their energy system. Also, it encouraged attendees to engage in the dialogue on a more sustainable energy supply worldwide.

On January 30th the German American Chamber of Commerce, Pittsburgh Chapter held its annual gala at the EIC. The Gala featured music by the River City Brass Band, and “Ice Room” that included Ice Sculptures, Glühwein and more. Proceeds from the event will benefit the chapters Dual Model Apprenticeship Program.