SPOTLIGHT

Finishing Trades Institute At a Glance

Staff  12 full-time | 27 part-time
Main Campus  2190 Hornig Road, Philadelphia, PA
Northeast PA Campus  66 Azalea Drive, Drums, PA
Geographic Reach  Eastern PA, Southern NJ, and all of DE

FTI offers the only Dept. of Education accredited union training program!

ABOUT FTI

The Finishing Trades Institute of the Mid Atlantic Region (FTI) provides training for the apprentices and journeypersons of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades, District Council 21 (DC 21). DC 21 membership includes 4,200 individuals representing commercial painters, drywall finishers, glaziers and glass workers, industrial painters, and wall coverers.

FTI has been registered with the Department of Labor since 1946 and in 2009, became North America’s first and only Department of Education accredited union training program.

Education has always been at the forefront of FTI initiatives. Today’s construction workers need strong construction training plus analysis, problem-solving, and communication skills; the ability to organize and prioritize tasks; and a strong work ethic.

Attaining full accreditation for its union apprenticeship program means each graduating apprentice receives a specialized associate degree and can continue the education process to earn bachelor’s or master’s degrees. FTI is helping recruit and build a smarter, more diverse, and motivated workforce.
FTI Mission
To supply area contractors with the most highly skilled craftspeople in the construction industry.

FTI Accomplishments
- Two facilities with over 100,000 square feet of training space including an interior three-story steel structure used for blueprint reading, hands-on skills development, welding, and health and safety training.
- 2012 Dept. of Labor Innovator and Trailblazer Award.
- 2012 Construction Users Round Table (CURT) Workforce Development Award.
- 2011 $5.6 million Green Jobs Training Fund Grant.
- 2009 full accreditation from U.S. Department of Education.

Local 252 Glazing Academy
To ensure DC 21 apprentices are well-trained, skilled, safe, and productive the first day they step on a job site, FTI and its glazier instructional staff developed a rigorous training program called Glazier Academy. FTI worked with construction industry employers, end-users, manufacturers, and forepersons to gain insights. Education models from the U.S. military, police and fire academies, Apple University, Pixar University, and GE Corporate College were also incorporated. The academy program addresses physical and technical skills plus leadership requirements necessary to help apprentices succeed.

“There is a bright future for people who work with their hands,” said U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez at FTI in May 2014. He hailed apprenticeships for their ability to give young people real-world experience, upward mobility and because “some people work better by doing.”

Learn More
FTI offers Allied Trades Continuing Education and Health and Safety training. Visit www.fti.edu to learn more.