

CLASSROOM BASED COURSES

1. BLUEPRINT READING (NOVEMBER 16 – DECEMBER 21, 2010)

A Blueprint Reading Course was delivered from November 16, 2010 to December 21, 2010. This course allowed participants to strengthen their document use skills, while studying the practical application of blueprint reading. The Blueprint Reading course was well received and the programming faced high demand. Although the instructor and curriculum have remained consistent, delivery methods have continued to evolve and are flexible in meeting the learning goals of individual participants. Curriculum incorporates Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training material and is supplemented by schematics developed by the instructor. Basic computer use skills, as they relate to computer-aided design (CAD) programs and drafting, are also demonstrated and discussed. Participants are encouraged to analyze schematics to recognize symbols, abbreviations, scale measurements and use critical thinking to determine potential errors in schematics.

The Blueprint Reading course had thirteen registrants, filling the course to maximum capacity. Five participants were employees of Saskatoon & Region Home Builders' Association members, four participants were potential apprentices actively working with the Joint Training Committee (JTC) to become indentured Apprentices and two participants were clients of our partner Bridges & Foundations Career Development Corporation; remaining participants were recruited from other sources. Demographics were as follows: 69% men, 31% women, 15% Aboriginal persons, 23% youth and 15% new Canadians. Eleven participants were administered Test of Workplace Essential Skills (TOWES) pre-assessments, as two participants' scores from previous Essential Skills course attendance were used for entrance assessment purposes. One participant was unable to complete the course due to challenges with transportation. The course end date falling close to the Christmas season posed scheduling challenges to ensure completion of TOWES post-assessments for some participants; however, flexible scheduling options were offered to address the problem. This allowed for strong completion rates in the Blueprint Reading course.

Long term benefits of this course included introducing participants to new document use skills directly related to their work, strengthening critical thinking skills, as well as providing an opportunity to become involved in continuous learning as an adult. This allowed participants to become familiar with material needed both on the job-site, as well as in upcoming technical training. Participants were offered the opportunity to register for upcoming Introduction to Trades Math and Advanced Trades Math courses. Those involved with apprenticeship training decided to continue advancing their foundational Essential Skills development by registering for the upcoming courses in Trades Math.