



December 1, 2015

Ms. Kay Clement
Florida Department of Economic Opportunity
Division of Workforce Services
Bureau of One-Stop and Program Support
107 E. Madison Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-4120

Submitted via email to: Kay.Clement@deo.myflorida.com

Re: Quarterly Strategic Plan Report - Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council

Dear Ms. Clement;

I am pleased to report the following progress made by the Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council for the quarter beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on September 30, 2015. We are excited about the important work we've accomplished during this quarter and continue to strive to make positive contributions to the concrete masonry industry in Florida. The narratives that follow are referenced to the specific initiatives identified in the Council's Strategic Plan for 2015.

Strategic Initiative 1.

The Council has continued its planning and implementation of programs that are designed to expand education and training for concrete masonry occupations. We have been inventorying educational programs across the State and are working with the Masonry Association of Florida (MAF), which runs the local apprenticeship programs in generating ideas and strategies for expanding masonry apprenticeships. There are five (5) operating apprenticeships and one (1) additional apprenticeship that is scheduled to begin after the first of the year. Three additional programs are undergoing the appropriate review/approval processes and once approved will be able to start the first quarter 2016.

We are assisting MAF with establishing regional CareerSource assistance for the potential stream of apprenticeship candidates to be enrolled in the training programs. This challenging initiative is ongoing with three CareerSource regions that are currently using approaches unique to each region. Going forward it is our goal to help develop a standardized approach that all CareerSource regions can adopt to some degree. We are also working with three other regions on how they can assist the industry.

Strategic Initiative 2.

The Council is working with the Florida Masonry Apprenticeship and Education Foundation (FMAEF) to identify and implement ways to connect with and interest high school graduates in masonry industry careers. FMAEF sponsors over 130 high schools and vocational technical education centers for National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) Training.

Strategic Initiative 3.

The Council is working with the Florida Department of Corrections (DOC) and FMAEF on their in-facility training programs that are located throughout the state. Our goal is to establish a referral process for ex-offenders during re-entry to their local CareerSource offices for referral to masonry employers. The Council is working with CareerSource Capital Region to develop a strategy for application to the US Department of Labor Training-to-Work 3 grant to provide re-entry and work release services in masonry and other construction programs to achieve that goal. If the Council were awarded this grant, we would work with CareerSource regions throughout the state for placement of these high-risk trainees.

Strategic Initiative 4. As time and money permit, we will work with the National Concrete Masonry Association and the Masonry Contractors Association of America to identify and promote the use of best practices in our industry.

Strategic Initiative 5. In the next quarter, the Council anticipates beginning to recruit proposals from vendors to assist the Council in meeting its strategic imperatives including educating our state's architects and engineers regarding use and benefits of concrete block in new construction. As we continue to emerge from our construction recession, retraining on sustainable and resilient concrete block that is manufactured in Florida is necessary.

Strategic Initiative 6. We continue to regularly visit producers that are not participating with the Council. The goals, objectives, potential of the Council, and value to individual producers are consistently reinforced. As word of the Council's work and accomplishments spreads, these producers are taking interest in what the Council is doing and the value the Council can offer.

Additional Accomplishments during this Quarter: The Council competitively procured an Administrative Entity to assist the Executive Director, serve as staff to the Council, handle all day-to-day administrative and financial responsibilities, maintain the Council's web site, and assist the Council with identifying and applying for grants that will help the Council meet its goals. Effective October 1, 2015, the Council contracted with Florida Management Solutions, Inc. (FMS), to serve as the Council's administrative entity.

As we continue to work diligently on our strategic plan we expect to accomplish much more in the coming quarters. If you have any questions, please contact me at:
jim@floridamasonrycouncil.org or 352.494.8960.

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Sincerely,

s/Jim Painter

Jim Painter
Executive Director
Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council
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