



January 29, 2016

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 October 1, 2015 and ending on December 31, 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's work with CareerSource Capital Region to develop a strategy for application to the U.S. Department of Labor's Training-to-Work 3 grant ended prematurely when the Council was notified that Gadsden County Correctional and the CareerSource Capitol region would not be participating. The Council also explored the Department of Labor's Training to Work Adult Reentry Grant. However since prior grant experience counted heavily in the scoring and the Council has yet to acquire this experience, it was decided that it would be highly unlikely that the Council would be awarded this grant. Despite these disappointments, the Council continues to pursue grant opportunities.

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.

The Council's Executive Director has been invited to participate in a multi-state round table discussion on March 18, 2016 with the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia.

Strategic Initiative 5. The Council issued a Training and Education Services Invitation to Negotiate (ITN) #12-2015. This ITN sought responses from organizations that would:

- Plan, implement, and conduct programs of education for the purpose of training individuals in the field of concrete masonry;
- Enhance and ensure access to the program in as many school districts, regions, and population centers as possible, particularly those that are underserved;
- Increase enrollment in the Masonry Apprenticeship Program, while also ensuring those served represent a diverse population across socio-economic and demographic lines;
- Coordinate educational programs with national programs or programs of other states; to include taking advantage of federal funds available for workforce development and training; and
- Increase the demand for concrete masonry block in the State of Florida, through education of the consumer, in order to grow job opportunities afforded by the Concrete Masonry Education Program.

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Two organizations, the Florida Masonry Apprenticeship and Education Foundation and the Masonry Association of Florida each responded to this competitive and public procurement. After reviewing and scoring each organization's response, the Council appointed a Negotiating Committee comprised of one Council member, the Council's Executive Director, and the Council's attorney to negotiate a deliverables-based vendor contract with each of these respondents. Each contract provides non-overlapping deliverables that are consistent with the Council's goals specified in the ITN. It is anticipated that the Council will approve these contracts during the first quarter of 2016.

This ITN remains open to attract additional respondents that will help the Council achieve its Strategic Initiatives.

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.

Currently 41% of industry producers have signed the Producer Commitment Agreement and began contributing to the Council as of April 1, 2015. These Producers represent 67% of the operating plants and 76% of the production in Florida.

Additional Accomplishments during this Quarter:

- Effective October 1, 2015, the Council contracted with Florida Management Solutions, Inc. (FMS), to serve as the Council's administrative entity;
- Created and approved a Procurement Policy; and
- Identified other innovative programs that meet the Council's purpose as defined in its Bylaws, e.g., participation on the Florida Home Builders Association's Construction Industry Shortage Task Force.

As we continue to work diligently on our strategic plan we will continue and build upon our progress in the coming quarters. If you have any questions, please contact me at: jim@floridamasonrycouncil.org or 352.494.8960.

Sincerely,

s/Jim Painter

Jim Painter
Executive Director
Florida Concrete Masonry Education Council
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