U.S. Senator Ben Cardin visited Prince George's Community College's Westphalia Training Center Tuesday. The center allows for residents to reach their goal of obtaining licensure and certification credentials required for in-demand jobs. Nearly 500 students were trained in its first year of operation.

Operated by the college’s Workforce Development and Continuing Education area, the Westphalia Training Center features large classrooms, a computer lab and trade-related occupational training labs. The facility provides hands-on training in critical construction trade areas including residential, industrial and commercial construction; building maintenance engineer training; carpentry; electricity; residential wiring; heating, ventilation, air conditioning (HVAC/R) certification; locksmithing; plumbing; and welding training. In addition, the center offers facility management, automotive technology, motorcycle repair, arborist, landscaping, gardening, beekeeping classes, and hair braiding instruction.

Read more at www.uppermarlboro.patch.com
The Prince George's Community College's Flagship Workforce job training program is named TeamBuilders Academy. The staff is dedicated to the success of the academy and its participants. They remain actively involved in the daily activities of the program, visiting classrooms, providing personal and career encouragement, and advocating for any participant that might need it. Dr. Thomisha Duru, the program director, oversees all operations and searches for new ways to enhance and cultivate the program and its participants. John Deadwyler, referred to as "JD," serves as program coordinator. In his role, JD works to ensure that the program meets the needs of the participants and makes certain the participants meet the program's expectations. Lori Jones, the program's office associate, provides administrative support and assistance to the program director, coordinator, and participants. Together, these three staff members help make sure that TeamBuilders Academy operates with both efficiency and compassion so that it achieves its mission.

The TeamBuilders Academy Staff has secured the program's first corporate sponsor! The Largo Lowes Store #0702 has generously donated over $400 in tool belts and other supplies to the TBA participants.

Meet The Staff

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Success Stories

Summer 2012

TeamBuilders Academy partnered with the Prince George's County Public School System to create a Summer Youth Construction Training Program. The participants built a shed that is used to store some of TBA's equipment and supplies. The training program is designed for non-college bound Prince George's County high school seniors. The four-week Carpentry training provides participants with an introduction to the carpentry trade.

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The Fall 2012 Cohort will historically be known as the cohort that began the expansion of TeamBuilders Academy industry trainings. Over forty Prince George’s County residents were accepted into one of four occupational trade training tracks: telecommunications cabling, hospitality express, construction and automotive technician. These tracks were created in collaboration with institute directors from the college’s Workforce Development Institutes. In addition to the industry trainings, TBA participants also receive instruction on workplace math and reading literacy, computer literacy and career coaching. The training is designed to increase the participants’ confidence, competencies, and employability; all of which makes their transition back into the workforce easier.

Service Learning Project
TeamBuilders Academy values its commitment to service learning projects. Each semester, TBA participants are required to complete service learning hours as a condition of gaining access to the TeamBuilders Academy Scholarship. Service learning projects are designed for program participants to utilize the skills learned while allowing them to “give back” to their community. The Spring 2012 cohort completed beautification and maintenance projects at the YMCA Capital View Branch, Newton Senior Apartments, and the main campus of Prince George’s Community College.