

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HEAVY EQUIPMENT TRAINING MADE POSSIBLE WITH PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS**

*Portland/Clackamas/Molalla* – The Northwest College of Construction (NWCC) is proud to announce the development of two new partnerships – with the Portland Parks & Recreation and with Emmert International – which has generated three new training sites in Portland, Clackamas and Molalla.

How can a promising construction worker possibly learn how to safely and efficiently operate a bulldozer, backhoe or loader, without hands-on, real-world training? According to the NWCC, it's virtually impossible. That's why their Heavy Equipment Operators program requires not only academic and simulated learning, but "seat time" in all commonly used heavy construction machinery.

The challenge NWCC has encountered in the past – is *where* to hold this training. Past sites have been temporary and proven to be too muddy or too far away to provide optimal training. *"Good training sites are essential to the creation of a top notch heavy equipment program."* stated Dan Graham, President of NWCC. *"As a result of these gifts, the College will be able to continue to develop the best program of its kind in Oregon and Southwest Washington."*

### **Portland Parks & Recreation Introduces Gates Park Enhancement Project**

The Portland Parks & Recreation's property, Gates Park, is a 7.5 acre site located at SE 138<sup>th</sup> & Holgate. NWCC students will have the opportunity to not only learn their craft, but to enhance a community resource. <http://www.portlandonline.com/parks/index.cfm?c=49036>

### **Emmert International Steps Up to Support Workforce Training**

Emmert International has donated the use of two sites in Clackamas County for the college's Heavy Equipment Operators Apprenticeship Program: one in Clackamas at SE Capps Road and 120<sup>th</sup> Ave, the other in Molalla at 14231 S. Mackburg Road.

Emmert International, specializing in heavy haul transportation and rigging services, has been a part of this community for over 40 years. With 150 employees of its own, Emmert understands the value of cultivating a skilled, quality workforce. *"This is an opportunity for Emmert International to contribute to the development of the workforce."* said Terry Emmert, President of Emmert International, *"We see this gift as a way to give something back to the community."*  
[www.emmertintl.com](http://www.emmertintl.com)

Access to the Portland Parks and Recreation and Emmert International sites will allow NWCC apprentices to hone their skills in real world work situations. Tasks will include but not be limited to **preparing a pad for a soccer field, demolishing a building, clearing land of heavy brush and trees, excavation, grading and road building.**

*"All of these tasks will be incorporated into our curriculum."* stated Graham, *"One of the real benefits of a partnership like this is that it allows our students to make a significant contribution to the community. Years from now these NWCC graduates will be able to take their children out to the park and tell them that they helped build it."*

The Northwest College of Construction Heavy Equipment Operators Apprenticeship Program requires that apprentices complete 4 years of training which includes a total of 8,000 hours of on-the-job experience and 160 hours of related (classroom) training per year. Northwest College of Construction apprentices learn to operate a variety of heavy equipment, which include cranes, bulldozers and excavators which are used for the construction of buildings, dams, airport, highways and ports.

[www.borntobuild.info](http://www.borntobuild.info)