

-- NEWS ADVISORY --

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NORTHWEST COLLEGE OF CONSTRUCTION OFFERS NEW TILE SETTER & FINISHER PROGRAM



PORTLAND, OR – Quality craftsmanship in tile setting and finishing has just received a training boost. The Bureau of Labor and Industries has recently approved the Tile Setter & Finisher program, to be administered by the Northwest College of Construction (NWCC).

NWCC's market-driven approach to education means contractors now have the opportunity to sharpen their competitive edge with a well-trained, quality workforce. In keeping with the College's tradition of apprenticeship programs being open to non-apprentices, both the Tile Finisher and Tile Setter Programs will be open enrollment. Starting in November, classes will be offered once a month on Fridays and Saturdays over the course of nine months. (*Please see the NWCC Winter Schedule for details.*) These weekend courses also act as stand-alone 'modules' and may be taken independent of other weekend modules, thus serving a dual purpose as journey-upgrade classes.

Key to gaining approval for this program has been the active support from local contracting firms, **Paragon Tile & Stone, Inc., Rose City Marble, Granite and Tile, Inc.** and **DeWolf's Tile & Marble Inc.** Paragon Tile & Stone's president, Marc Dollahite, serves as the chair of the apprenticeship committee (Oregon-Columbia Tile trades JATC). Marc explains his passion for the training: "*As enrollments in the trades have diminished, this program in the tile trades is vital to the future of open shop trades and the future of the industry.*" Tremendous resources were found at the National Tile Contractors Association, who reviewed and approved proposed curriculum. Additionally, Tiffany Kriesel, NWCC Director of Apprenticeship, was instrumental in moving the program forward.

All classes are taught by experienced trades people and industry experts who are trained to teach. To view a full schedule of all class offerings, visit www.nwcc.com, or to take a tour of the campus please contact NWCC at 503.256.7300.

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