

# NWTC and Forward Service Opening up Doors for Minorities and Women

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GREEN BAY, Wis. (WFRV) - Skilled employees are in short supply, especially in the construction trades. But a new partnership between NWTC and a non-profit called Forward Service, is working to change that while also opening up doors for minorities and women.

At NWTC students preparing for jobs in the construction trades learn safety regulations. The first class from a new partnership between Forward Service and NWTC.

"We're a 160-hour entry-level construction training program geared at assisting minorities and women to enter into the trades," said Ranard Morris from Forward Service.

"I think of it as a boot camp or readiness training for general trades occupations." Said Todd Kiel from NWTC.

Forward Service is funded through the Wisconsin DOT's Trans Program, whose goal is to open up careers in transportation and construction to minorities and women like Sabrina Turner.

"I wanted the opportunity to make better wages to support my family. I've gotten my OSHA certification, flagging certification, first aid certification," said Turner.

Along with a learner's permit for a commercial driver's license and exposure to many basic construction skills.

"That puts them a leg up over just pulling a person off the streets," said Kiel. "Finding quality talent probably is the number one issue almost every trade right now."

Morris says those enrolled are helped with job placement and starting hourly wages can range between \$16 and \$46. Donnie Swygert graduates next Monday and can't wait to start a career in highway construction.

"They put me in a position to where I can see a foreseeable future full of success," said Swygert.

Thanks to this program and the passion each of these students has, to prepare themselves for a career and not just another job.

For more information on joining the program [follow this link](#).