



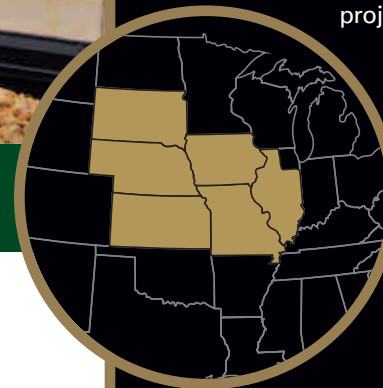
MIDWEST REGION LECET

Midwest LECET Helps Laborers Earn College Degrees

Midwest Region LECET, the Laborers' Midwest Regional Office, the Illinois Laborers' and Contractors' Joint Apprenticeship and Training Fund, and Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIUC) established a partnership that allows Laborers to use training courses and work experience to earn Bachelor of Science degrees.

Many community colleges throughout the region already offer Laborers in approved training courses credit towards Associate in Applied Science (AAS) degrees. The new program expands upon this, enabling Laborers with AAS degrees to begin earning Bachelor of Science degrees in Technical Resource Management, Industrial Technology, or Workforce Education and Development. Midwest Region LECET coordinated meetings between representatives of the Laborers' Midwest Regional Office, the Illinois Training Fund, Midwest Region Laborers' Health and Safety Fund, and SIUC to work out details of the new degree credit program, and to bring it to fruition. Twenty Illinois Laborers, mostly instructors at the Illinois Laborers' Mount Sterling Training Center, are currently enrolled in the first pilot class of the program, a course on workforce development. Future courses will be held at the Mount Sterling Training Center, and also will be offered online.

Laborers with college degrees are more likely than other Laborers to move into job-site management positions that enable them to assign work to other Laborers. The degree credentials and additional education also enhance their value to the contractors for whom they work. The new partnership between LIUNA and SIUC will expand the ranks of such Laborers, strengthening the market position of both Midwest Laborers and their signatory contractors.



OTHER ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Utilized project tracking and contacts with state and federal officials to help the Western Missouri Laborers' District Council and Laborers' Local Union 319 secure work on a multi-million-dollar mine remediation project in Jasper County, Missouri.
- Helped the Great Plains Laborers' District Council and Laborers' Local Union 1140 win work on two upcoming ethanol plant projects worth \$400 million.
- Helped the Great Plains Laborers' District Council and Laborers' Local Union 620 track and secure work on a \$142-million water treatment plant.
- Provided the Indiana Laborers' District Council with contact information necessary to secure an \$18.5-million tunnel project in Lafayette, Indiana.



PHOTO COURTESY MIDWEST LECET

Some of the LIUNA and SIUC leaders who established a partnership between the two organizations (left to right): LIUNA Vice President and Midwest Regional Manager Edward M. Smith; SIUC President Glenn Poshard; LIUNA General President Terence M. O'Sullivan; SIUC Chancellor Fernando M. Treviño; and former LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and National Retiree Council Coordinator Terence J. O'Sullivan.

MIDWEST REGION LECET

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