District and Local Carpenters Union
Sign First-of-its-Kind Agreement

Qualifying high school students guaranteed apprenticeships

November 14, 2012 (San Francisco) - Superintendent Richard A. Carranza met with officials from the Carpenters Union Local #22 today to sign an agreement that will guarantee qualifying high school students direct entry into the union’s carpenter apprenticeship program, which means guaranteed career placement at union scale wages.

According to the Carpenters Union, this is the first agreement of-its-kind where high school students will have direct entry into the carpenter’s apprenticeship program. The program will be open to students at John O’Connell High School, as well as high school students from around the district who attend TECH21 classes at O’Connell after school.

Both SFUSD and Carpenters Union officials spoke about the importance of supplying well-qualified and job-ready apprentices for the construction industry.

“This is a great opportunity for our students,” said Superintendent Carranza. “It helps our kids who are passionate about careers in the trades find good-paying jobs that will allow them to continue to live here in San Francisco.”

The Carpenters Training Committee for Northern California has agreed to provide curriculum plus industry experts to assist with training.

“This will be a rigorous and challenging curriculum for all pre-apprentices who want direct entry into the Carpenters Union,” said Adrian Simi, field representative for the union, who graduated from O’Connell High several years ago.

“This is how we are going to get our San Francisco kids into local jobs,” said Simi.

“Once families here in San Francisco learn that this program will bring them so much closer to apprenticeships that lead to jobs, we expect exponential growth in enrollment into the program,” said O’Connell principal Mark Alvarado, who helped shepherd the agreement through its final stages.

This new opportunity for SFUSD high school students is the most recent addition to the district’s College and Career Readiness program, which aims to ensure that every student is ready for both college and career upon graduation.

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