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***DISTRICT COUNCIL 9 OPENS NEW TRAINING CENTER IN WAPPINGERS FALLS, NY
BEGINS RECRUITMENT FOR REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM***

NEW YORK, NY – May 22, 2012 – District Council No. 9 (DC 9) is pleased to announce the opening of the new **Wappingers Training Center**, located at 21 Airport Drive, Wappingers Falls, New York. The union has also opened enrollment for their **Registered Apprenticeship Program** which consists of on-the-job training and related classroom instruction.

A Skilled Workforce Is the Most Important Asset That an Employer Can Have

DC 9 and its local unions built the Wappingers Falls Training Center to offer education and training programs that will make their members the most knowledgeable and highly accomplished craft workers in New York's construction industry. To strengthen the field, DC 9 is looking to ensure that their signatory employers have the most skilled and productive workers in their trades.

“The opening of this center is great news for New York,” said New York State Comptroller **Thomas P. DiNapoli**. “DC 9 workers have literally built this state – and this new institute will ensure that current and future craft workers here in New York will continue to lead the way for the industry. Your great apprenticeship programs, safety and health compliance courses and continuing education make sure the workers of DC 9 have skills at the highest level. The union continues to set a high bar.”

The Benefits of Being an Apprentice

After successfully enrolling in the training program, apprentices will be considered employed workers and will receive fair wages while they learn the trade, regular wage increases, a benefits package and diversified training. Apprentices will be enlisted as members of DC 9, one of the most politically active unions in New York State, and will learn to upgrade their skill level to have the opportunity for advancement in their field. Apprentices will also receive full safety training to prepare them for their career.

Every training center instructor is certified and trained to teach their course. Course offerings include programs for:

- **Structural Steel & Bridge Painters:** Apprentices will learn the details of abrasive blasting and painting, building and dismantling containments, safe operation and maintenance of all tools and equipment, lead and other hazards abatement.

- **Glaziers:** Apprentices will learn the work of setting, removing, cutting and handling of all forms of glass. Course details include the caulking of glass, metal and stone in the glazing system, installation of metal frames, storefront windows and skylights, the driving of trucks and the hoisting of materials.
- **Metal Polishers:** Apprentices will learn to polish metals, examine surfaces for repair and details on how to clean, strip, sand and buff all surfaces. Additional course details include repairing of breaks prior to refinishing, brushing and spraying lacquer on finished surfaces.
- **Painters:** Apprentices will learn the details of painting both the inside and outside of commercial and residential buildings, as well as the safe and proper use of all equipment.
- **Drywall Tapers:** Apprentices will learn about preparing panels for painting by taping and finishing joints and imperfections, measuring, cutting and fitting pieces for doors, windows, outlets and other architectural surfaces, gluing and attaching wall board to frames.

How to Apply for the Registered Apprenticeship Program

To qualify for the program applicants must be 18 years of age, have a high school diploma or GED, must be able to produce proper identification and be physically able to perform the work required of the trade. The length of the training program ranges from three to four years. Apprentices must attend classroom training and maintain a satisfactory attendance record.

To apply for the program, please visit <https://fti.unionlogic.net/DC9>. For more information regarding the free application process, please call (845) 473-0564.

About District Council 9 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades

District Council 9 of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades is an organizational of painters, decorators, wall coverers, drywall finishers, sign painters, metal polishers, bridge & structural steel painters, civil service painters, lead abatement workers, glaziers & architectural metal glassworkers, paint makers and allied trades. They are a membership run organization with leaders elected by the membership and each local union as council delegates who represent them at monthly council delegate meetings. Their unity makes them stronger and together they are dedicated to securing and improving wages, benefits, and overall working conditions, not only for themselves, but for their families and future generations to come.