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CONTACT: Andrew Kramer
City of Atlantic City
609-226-3470

Candice Womer
Atlantic City Electric
866-655-2237 (media hotline)

26 Atlantic City Residents Become First Graduates of Atlantic City Infrastructure Program Bolstering South Jersey's Future Energy Workforce

City of Atlantic City and Atlantic City Electric workforce development program providing City residents with a new pathway to careers in energy

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (February 2, 2023) – The first cohort of 26 Atlantic City residents has graduated from the 14-week Atlantic City Infrastructure Program (ACIP), an energy workforce training program for City residents announced in September 2022 by the City of Atlantic City and Atlantic City Electric. The graduation celebration was held today at Stockton University's Atlantic City Academic Center with graduates, their families and numerous officials from the region.

"I was looking for a change of direction in my life and when I heard about this program, I thought this would be a great opportunity for myself," said Lamont Carson, graduate of the first Atlantic City Infrastructure Program cohort. "I've learned a lot from being a part of this program. One thing I've learned that I can point out is always challenge yourself because if you don't, you're cheating yourself!"

The Atlantic City Infrastructure Program provides residents of Atlantic City a path to careers in the energy field, with a job opportunity for every program graduate with Atlantic City Electric or one of the company's contractors of choice. The program focuses on members from the under-resourced population in Atlantic City, enabling participants to gain utility training and work-ready skills to prepare them for promising careers in the energy field.

"Through this program, these individuals were given an opportunity they may not have otherwise had to better their lives, and they grabbed the bull by the horn," said Atlantic City Mayor Marty Small, Sr. "This was an intense course that required hard work and dedication on their end, and it makes me proud to see them be able to celebrate their accomplishments. They are going on to bigger and better things because of ACIP, and we are looking forward to another successful cohort this year through our continued partnership with Pepco Holdings and Atlantic City Electric."

"Programs like ACIP enable us to partner with organizations that understand, and are embedded in, the local community to expand opportunities and create a robust pipeline of talent from the communities we serve," said Tyler Anthony, president and CEO of Pepco Holdings, which includes Atlantic City Electric. "I look forward to our continued work with the City of Atlantic City and bringing forward impactful programs and opportunities that drive real social equity for the residents of Atlantic City. I am extremely proud of this first cohort. They are blazing a trail for the graduating classes for years to come."

The Atlantic City Infrastructure Program builds on a broader six-year, \$6.5 million South Jersey Workforce Development Program that Atlantic City Electric launched in 2018 in partnership with seven South Jersey Community Colleges and Workforce Development Boards and builds upon Mayor Small's vision to provide Atlantic City residents the tools they need to build successful careers and thrive in the workplace.

With a goal of providing every graduate a job opportunity with Atlantic City Electric or one of the company's contractors of choice, the Atlantic City Infrastructure Program is a leading example of a corporate-community partnership that helps educate the state's future energy workforce, resulting in positive impact on the livelihoods of individuals and families in Atlantic City while supporting the advancement of South Jersey's economy.

"Today we're not only celebrating a graduation, we're celebrating the beginning of many exciting new careers," said Dr. Zenon Christodoulou, commissioner of New Jersey Board of Public Utilities. "We are building a clean energy economy from the ground up. The state is taking advantage of our prime coastal location and leading by example to a future where clean energy is just called energy."

"The ACIP graduating class will be the inspiration for other Atlantic City residents to take advantage of the opportunities offered by the utility industry," said Fran Kuhn, Executive Director of the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board. "The Workforce Development Board is proud to partner with Atlantic City Electric and Atlantic City to create a new training environment that develops the necessary skills to be a productive member of the energy workforce. This program has allowed individuals to recognize their full potential, realize their dreams are achievable and look forward to future accomplishments."

Participants in the Atlantic City Infrastructure Program began the 14-week program on November 1, 2022, attending sessions two days per week for three hours each. Training took place at the Carnegie Library Center in Atlantic City and at the Atlantic City Electric utility training yard located at the Anthony "Tony" Canale Training Center in Egg Harbor Township, N.J. Program education was provided by Atlantic Cape Community College in partnership with the Atlantic County Workforce Development Board. The program will continue to take place twice a year.

In addition to these results-focused workforce development programs, Atlantic City Electric has several initiatives that are helping to open doors to new career opportunities for residents and students across South Jersey:

- The company recently joined Jingoli Power to provide jobs to 16 Atlantic City young adults as part of its Atlantic City/Brigantine Community Reliability Project.
- The company's High School Energy Career Academy is a four-year program focused on preparing students in grades 9 through 12, for entering post-secondary education or moving directly to employment in the energy field.
- Its Spark Internship Program provides an eight-week summer paid work experience and work-readiness education for rising South Jersey high school juniors and seniors with an interest in engineering, IT, technical services, trades, environmental studies and other energy industry relevant subject areas.
- The Exelon STEM Academy is a free, six-day summer program by Atlantic City Electric's parent company, where junior and senior high school girls take part in activities crafted to support their understanding of STEM career options and college programs that can help them gain access and achieve success in a number of energy related positions.

- Through the company's Community Scholars Program, South Jersey students have the opportunity to receive support of up to \$5,000 to pursue degrees in various disciplines, including STEM and business-related fields.

Other workforce development programs continuing in Atlantic City under the Small administration in 2023 include the Small Business Academy, a free course that educates Atlantic City residents on how to start their own business, the Investment Cohort, another free program that teaches Atlantic City residents how to become investors and the Ernest Trans Trucking School which prepares residents for a trucking career.

Residents of Atlantic City interested in participating in the next Atlantic City Infrastructure Program cohort can contact Rachele Dorsey at Rachele.Dorsey@exeloncorp.com.

To learn more about Atlantic City Electric, visit [The Source](#), Atlantic City Electric's online newsroom. Find additional information by visiting atlanticcityelectric.com, on Facebook at facebook.com/AtlanticCityElectric, and on Twitter at twitter.com/AcEleCconnect. Atlantic City Electric's mobile app is available at atlanticcityelectric.com/MobileApp.

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