



Commissioner Brad Avakian
Bureau of Labor and Industries

Press Release

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CONTACT: Kate Newhall 971-673-0786

State Apprenticeship Council Approves both New and Revised Standards for Various Apprenticeship Programs

Commissioner Brad Avakian presides over his first council meeting

PORTLAND- The Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council (OSATC) held its quarterly meeting today to approve new apprenticeship programs, make revisions to existing programs and evaluate policies and practices governing the operation of state apprenticeship programs. New Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian presided over the OSATC for the first time today.

“I continue to be impressed with the capacity of apprenticeship programs to train a diverse and qualified workforce,” said Avakian. “Expanding these programs that provide necessary technical skills and on-the-job training is the key to increasing the size and quality of Oregon’s workforce.”

Apprenticeship programs combine supervised on-the-job training with classroom instruction. The BOLI Apprenticeship and Training Division is a state-run workforce program dedicated to promoting and ensuring continued job training. Oregon’s apprenticeship program generates highly skilled workers who earn above average wages, and some are eligible for associate degrees upon completion of their program, making Oregon’s workforce even more attractive to new businesses.

“Apprenticeship is a proven strategy to improve the skills of Oregon’s workforce and enhance the efficiency and productivity of the construction, manufacturing and service industries,” said Avakian.

In its action today, the OSATC approved new and revised programs for sheet metal workers, cement masons, inside electricians, stationary engineers, limited energy technicians, and several other trades. It also approved affirmative action goals and timetables for a number of programs.

The Oregon State Apprenticeship and Training Council is responsible for

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overseeing apprenticeship committees, programs, and policies; the council approves all state certified apprenticeship programs, including minimum qualifications, selection procedures, affirmative action guidelines, curriculum, training methods and apprenticeship wages. The eight members of the council are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate with the commissioner of BOLI serving as the council chairperson.

Apprenticeship programs vary in length from 2,000 to 8,000 supervised on-the-job training hours and achieve higher completion rates than most four year institutions. Inside electrical apprentices in Oregon, for example, completed at a rate of 71.2% for the five year period between 2003 and 2007.

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