



International Union of Operating Engineers

* * * Local 139 * * *

Providing A Skilled Workforce For Wisconsin's Future
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FOXCONN TRAINING CENTER UP AND RUNNING, PROVIDING VALUABLE TRAINING FOR UNDER-EMPLOYED, LOCAL RESIDENTS

(Pewaukee, Wis.) – The Foxconn project needs skilled workers – lots of them – ideally, from the very region that has suffered economically over the years. That was the driving force behind development of the recently opened Foxconn Training Center that is located on the Foxconn project site.

Training and delivering a skilled construction workforce to the massive Foxconn project has required the earnest and coordinated efforts of its lead contractors (Gilbane Building Company, Hoffman Construction), Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139, the Wisconsin Building Trades Council, Racine Mayor Cory Mason, Case IH, and Miller-Bradford & Risberg implement dealers. Together they comprised the Skill Improvement and Apprenticeship Fund (SIAF) group, which is funded by the members of Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139 to provide local residents and under-employed individuals the opportunity to enter the construction trades and participate in the Foxconn project.

“We have been working like hell to create the real opportunities for Wisconsin residents,” said Terrance McGowan, president of Wisconsin Operating Engineers Local 139. “The Foxconn promise can only be kept if we deliver the training, funding and opportunities that taxpayers expect, especially to a region that has seen devastating economic impacts over the years.”

The effort to train regional workers through the Big Step program at Racine’s Gateway Technical College and the SIAF began in earnest in April and has required the active participation of the groups and individuals previously mentioned. Operating Engineers Local 139 is financing the training personnel and numerous pieces of heavy equipment; Case IH and Miller-Bradford & Risberg are also providing equipment; Hoffman is paying for fuel costs; Gilbane is providing land and coordination of the training; and, Racine Mayor Cory Mason has provided the invaluable leadership required to deliver jobs to area residents.

The Foxconn training facility will allow for on-site, hand-on operation of heavy equipment and required safety training that will allow trainees to attain apprenticeship status and get to work on the project.

- 30 -

Established in 1902, Operating Engineers Local 139 is a statewide trade union that primarily represents skilled Operators of heavy construction equipment and mechanics who service the machines. The union has more than 9,500 active and retired members and is headquartered in Pewaukee. Local 139 also maintains district offices in Madison, Appleton and Altoona, as well as a state-certified training school for Operating Engineers in Coloma.