



# THE WEEKLY CHARTER

*"Chartering a course in educational innovation"*

## The New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy's Mission Statement:

*The New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy is a unique, innovative collaborative partnership between the Cranston Public Schools and the New England Laborers'. The mission of the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy is to provide students in grades 9-12 with a solid academic foundation in an authentic learning environment in order to prepare students interested in exploring career options in the construction trades and environmental sciences, as well as to become ethical, productive, responsible citizens of the global society.*

### Armand E. Sabitoni honored as a major charter school sponsor by Governor Donald L. Carcieri

The Rhode Island State House in Providence was the setting for an event to honor and recognize eleven major sponsors of charter schools in the Ocean State. Representing the New England Laborers'/Cranston Public Schools Construction Career Academy, LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni was asked to speak on behalf of the entire charter school community. Governor Donald L. Carcieri welcomed and praised the honorees for their foresight and their participation in the education of Rhode Island's young people.

In his speech, General Secretary-Treasurer Sabitoni credited LIUNA training centers across the United States and Canada with setting the stage for the charter school and LIUNA's vocational program in Medford, Massachusetts. He also noted the importance of the Laborers' partnerships with the Cranston school district and contractor organizations in creating these very successful high school construction programs.

*Pictured right is LIUNA General Secretary-Treasurer and New England Regional Manager Armand E. Sabitoni and Governor Donald L. Carcieri meeting young*



*New England Laborers' Representatives, Faith Mansollilo-Orabona, Mike Traficante and Robin Coia, along with Dr. Mike Silvia meet with Ms. Kathy Partington, Patricia McCrea and Lori DiPina from the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training.*



*Dr. Mike conversing with a student while the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training representatives observe.*

### The Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training tour charter school

Ms. Kathy Partington, Patricia McCrea and Lori DiPina from the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, along with several staff members visited the NEL/CPS recently. Their visit was prompted by an earlier visit by Adelita Orefice, the Director of the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training, who found our school programs very exciting and right in line with the department's efforts to assist high school students to transition into a career.

The guests from the Department of Labor toured the school and had a chance to speak with school personnel and students. They were quite impressed, especially after seeing the charter school's new building, which is almost ready for the students to begin classes. During the meeting, it was decided to bring in additional managers from the RIDLT to look at the school's programs, and see where the NEL/CPS can link up to their existing programs for young people.



## Charter school receives another technology grant

The Rhode Island Department of Education has awarded the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy with an "Enhancing Education through Technology Grant" worth nearly \$17-thousand dollars. The school will now be able to further update its state of the art computer technology laboratory with fifteen Dell Desktop computers and two Dell Laser Printers. Teachers will receive an intense two-week training course in learning Rhode Island's emerging statewide e-portfolio system. It will further allow students to collect and archive artifacts in a digital portfolio. In the grant application Mrs. Jacqueline Fitzgerald, charter school teacher, explained, "At the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy we have determined that our students learn best when solving authentic problems and are assessed individually. We are able to meet all state and city standards in the content areas through problem/ inquiry based learning."

## Virtual reality hardware becomes reality at charter school

Students at the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy will be taking computer – animated, "virtual tours" through the human heart and other internal organs rather than simply looking at a flat picture or reading about it, thanks to a \$1,500 technology grant from the E.D.S. Dr. Joel Gluck, Science teacher at the charter school, was commended by Governor Carcieri and honored with a grant check at a recent award ceremony at the state house. Dr. Gluck spoke on behalf of five schools that were awarded. Students will soon be using the virtual reality hardware to further their knowledge of science. Get those 3-D glasses ready!!!!!!!!!!!!



*Dr. Joel Gluck, science teacher at charter school along with students, is honored by RI Governor Donald Carcieri.*



*Female students from Charter School learn cutting and burning techniques at the New England Laborers' Training Center in Hopkinton at Career Day.*

## I am woman - hear me roar

From jack-hammering to hazardous waste remediation, female students from the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy got their hands dirty and had no fear when it came to performing all types of construction crafts at the Southeastern Quality Leaders Career Day at the New England Laborers' Training Center in Hopkinton, Massachusetts. The event was part of Construction Career Days, but specifically geared toward young women in high school throughout the Massachusetts and Rhode Island area. The event focused on women in the trade and the exciting opportunities offered to them in the industry. *You go girls!*

## Students travel back in time

Students at the NEL/CPS Construction Career Academy walked the Battlefields of Gettysburg and touched real cannons from the Civil War during a field trip to Gettysburg and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. The students visited the Betsy Ross House and the National Liberty Museum and had the chance to explore Elfreth's Alley – the oldest, continually lived street in the country. They also had the chance to observe money being produced at the United States Mint. Lastly, the students visited Six Flags Great Adventure Park, where they learned about the laws of motion, applying their knowledge in science.



*Underclassmen examine an actual cannon used in the Civil War on their class trip to Philadelphia and Gettysburg*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT

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