
JOB SHADOWING AT McCARTHY

From theory to practical application – Job Shadowing gives future construction workers a glimpse of reality.



Last month, Jerome McLemore and Marshallonus Perkins, both seniors at the Construction Careers Center (CCC) in St. Louis, got a peek at their future.



No, they didn't visit a Fortune Teller. These students participated in a nationwide Job Shadow Day.



On February 1, middle and high school students around the nation had an opportunity to see firsthand how what they are learning in school can be applied in the workplace. McCarthy was

among thousands of organizations participating in Job Shadow Day and even though we had to postpone the event because of a snowstorm, we did get the chance to host Jerome and Marsh for a day of shadowing on March 7.

The day started with a tour of the office and a walk through the intranet and the McCarthy web site, courtesy of Monica Bailey. Then, outfitted with the appropriate PPE, the students were turned over to Dan Licari, Dan Smith and CCC alum Bryan Allen, for a look at where the rubber meets the road in a construction company... the Yard.

Dan Licari is no stranger to taking CCC students under his wing. A few years ago, in an effort to ready CCC graduates for union apprenticeship programs, he established a program to help these kids get ready for the rigors of working in construction.

Dan takes on one or two grads a year and puts them to work in the Yard where they learn to perform a variety of jobs. For the first two months, the new recruits have a "*guardian angel*" to teach them safety rules. If performance and safety behavior are up to muster after this period, the recruits are rewarded with Home Depot gift cards so they can begin to buy the tools they'll need to work in the trade of their choice.

Job shadowing gave Jerome and Marsh an up close and personal look at what construction is all about...first in the Yard where they were given the opportunity to get their hands dirty, and then on the Edward Jones project site where Craig Miller, project superintendent and CCC career coach, explained the ins and outs of drilled piers and foundations. It also gave Dan Licari a glimpse of what these kids are made of so he can determine whether or not they would be good future candidates for his program in the Yard.

Job Shadow 2008 is a yearlong national effort to enrich the lives of students by acquainting them with the world of work through on-the-job experiences. This is the first year St. Louis organizations participated in the event. In addition to McCarthy serving as host, students from the CCC job shadowed at a number of other construction companies in town.
