



Craft Skills Assessments in Spanish

NCCER has translated several craft skills assessments to evaluate the knowledge and skill level of the growing Hispanic workforce within the construction industry. Subject matter experts fluent in both English and Spanish were key contributors to the development of these assessments.

Assessments currently available in Spanish include Core: Introductory Craft Skills, Concrete Finisher, Industrial Carpentry, Industrial Insulation, Masonry Level One, Reinforcing Iron and Rebar, Scaffold Builder, and Rigging Fundamentals. Future assessment translations include Industrial Pipefitter, Industrial Ironworker, and Industrial Electrician.

"A Hispanic worker may have knowledge and skills from on-the-job training, but not speak fluent English," said Tania Domenech, NCCER project manager. "Spanish-language adaptations of our assessments provide a method of measuring technical expertise, regardless of language."

Assessments are part of NCCER's National Craft Assessment and Certification Program. The NCACP provides contractors

with an effective tool to evaluate the knowledge and skills of entry- and journey-level craft professionals. The NCACP can also assist contractors meet owner demands, maximize training dollars, and increase productivity.

All assessments are based upon NCCER's Contren® Learning Series curriculum and are developed in conjunction with Prov, NCCER's test development partner. Assessments must be delivered through an NCCER Accredited Assessment Center.

Students who successfully pass an assessment will receive industry-recognized credentials through NCCER's National Registry and will be provided a training prescription if additional training is needed.

NCCER is a not-for-profit 501 (c)(3) education foundation created by the construction industry to develop standardized curriculum with portable credentials and to help address the skilled construction workforce shortage. NCCER is recognized by the industry as the training, assessment, certification, and career development standard for the construction, maintenance, and pipeline craft professional. For more information, visit www.nccer.org or contact NCCER customer service at 888.622.3720.

Member News

Stiles Construction Co. President Timothy Moore announced the completion of City of Hollywood oceanfront redevelopment project that includes a community center, 408-space parking garage and public park.

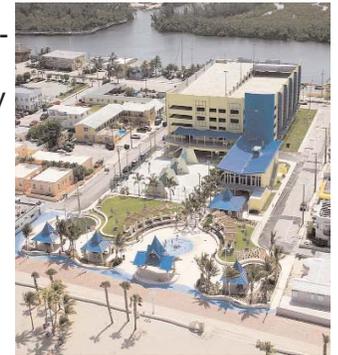
The park incorporates the city's popular and historic Garfield Street Paddleball Courts, which date from the 1930's.

Moss & Associates received the Florida Sunshine State Safety Recognition Award for its workplace safety programs at the \$237 million Ivy and Mint residential/mixed-use developments project in downtown Miami.

Miller Construction Company has construction underway for the Holy Cross Orthopaedic Institute at the Holy Cross HealthPlex campus on Dixie Highway in Fort Lauderdale.

Miller Healthcare Services helped plan the new second-floor orthopaedic facility, which includes 32 examination rooms, 20 physician offices and support areas for nurses and staff.

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Garfield Street Project



HC Orthopaedic Institute

Integrity, Customer Service and Safety

In the early 80's, Bill Mullis and four local businessmen in Bradenton, FL founded Staff Leasing. In 2001, Mr. Mullis purchased a small leasing company. Partnering with the owner of that company and a group of business associates who were once key executives with Staff Leasing, Employee Leasing Solutions (ELS) was established in 2001.

ELS was built upon a true entrepreneurial spirit by people that were willing to risk it



Employee Leasing Solutions

all because they believed things had to be done a different

way. ELS executives are firmly committed to a business model that is focused entirely upon helping the construction owner manage his or her risks. Because of this unwavering commitment, ELS has been privileged to build strong, lasting relationships with its clients, quickly becoming one of the

fastest growing employee leasing companies in the state of Florida.

Employee Leasing Solutions has approximately 16,000 employees in Florida and North Carolina. They are headquartered in Bradenton with branches located in Fort Lauderdale, Miami, West Palm Beach, Leigh High Acres, Naples, Stuart, Lake Mary, Ocala, Jacksonville, Crestview, Lakeland, and Mills River, NC.

Laurie Buchbinder, Sales Associate, comments, "We joined CASF in 2006 and have found the networking opportunities tremendous. The breakfasts and mixers are fantastic. Also the training seminars have been very beneficial." Laurie is an active member attending most of the events, serves on the Membership Committee and is an Ambassador.

"Owning a business is a very difficult thing to do. You don't just roll out of bed one day and start a business. Unfortunately, a new business owner ends up

going to the school of hard knocks on how to manage every aspect of owning a company. That's where ELS comes in. We make sure our client's employees are covered with workers' compensation, paid for the work they do, all necessary taxes are reported, which keeps the client in compliance with federal and state employment laws. This is the core of our partnership with our clients. We partner with them to do the best job we can so they can do what they do best."

"We have built our reputation of success by doing what we say we will do and doing it consistently every day. This builds a comfort level with our clients creating a partnership. Customer service is the basis of every good business," said Laurie Buchbinder. "Three top qualities of our company are integrity, superior customer service, and a service model that allows clients to earn a 'safety reward' for running a safe workplace. No other leasing company has this plan." Sales associates, such as Laurie, who understand how important these things are to a company build a reputation for "being there" for their clients. Laurie enjoys working with her clients to help them focus on their business, while she and ELS handle the rest.

Locally, Employee Leasing Solutions is located at 2001 W. Cypress Creek Rd., Ste 101, Ft. Lauderdale, 33309. For more information, contact Laurie Buchbinder at 954-446-2025 or email at lbuchbinder@myels.com. Check out their website at www.myels.com.

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Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.

OSHA Rule Confined Spaces in Construction

OSHA is proposing a rule to protect employees from the hazards resulting from exposure to confined spaces in the construction industry. Under the proposed rule, employers would first determine whether there is a confined space at a job site. If there is a confined space, the employer would determine if there are existing or potential hazards in the space and if so, the employer then would classify the space according to the physical and atmospheric hazards found in it. The four classifications are: Isolated-Hazard Confined Space, Controlled-Atmosphere Confined Space, Permit-Required Confined Space, and Continuous System-Permit-Required Confined Space. The proposed requirements for each type of confined space are tailored to control the different types of hazards.

Fatality and injury data, OSHA enforcement experience and advice from the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH), indicate that the existing construction

standard for confined and enclosed spaces at 29 CFR 1926.21(b)(6) does not adequately protect construction employees in confined spaces from atmospheric, mechanical, and other hazards. In this regard, the existing construction standard only requires employers to:

- 1) Instruct their employees about confined-space hazards, and;
- 2) Comply with other OSHA construction standards that address confined-space hazards.



For situations in which none of these construction standards apply, the employer would have to comply with the general-duty requirement of the

Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 to "furnish to each of [its] employees employment and a place of employment which are free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm to [its] employees." (29 U.S.C. 654.) Therefore, where the existing construction confined-spaces standard applies, it requires only training of employees who work in confined spaces--it does not address how trained employees are to be protected while working in such spaces.

OSHA has preliminarily determined that employees in the construction industry who perform work in confined spaces face a significant risk of death or serious injury, and that this proposed rule would substantially reduce that risk. At present, approximately 20,000 establishments have employees entering at least one confined space as defined by the proposed rule. There are an estimated annual total of 641,000 con-

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Stiles Construction WINS 2008 Membership Challenge



Stiles' Arlett Hudson (above) is the individual winner bringing in 52 of 116 new members to win a Ski trip for two to Crested Butte, CO.



Competing teams served the winners at the festive Luau Party on July 10.



CASF helps kick-off the Boys & Girls Clubs of Broward County's Generals Club during the first **Construction Career Day** at the Stephanis Unit in Pompano Beach with an all-day hands-on demonstration of the skilled trades on Saturday, July 12. Pictured above is a mason from Central Broward Construction demonstrating how to build a masonry wall. Also conducting demonstrations were American Engineering, Balfour Beatty Constr., Elcon Electric, General Crane USA, HYVAC, James A. Cummings, Lotspeich Co. of FL, Rightway Plumbing and Steel Fabricators.

OSHA Rule on Confined Spaces

(continued from Page 3)

financed spaces; about half of these confined spaces would be considered permit-required confined spaces under this proposal (Ex. OSHA-2007-0026-0003). OSHA estimates that each year there are 6.44 fatalities and 967 injuries experienced by employees working in confined spaces addressed by this proposed rule. OSHA has preliminary determined that the proposed rule, when implemented properly by employers, would reduce the average number of fatalities and injuries in confined spaces covered by the proposed standard by about 90% (6 fatalities prevented annually and 880 injuries prevented annually).

The proposed standard provides minimum safety

and health requirements and procedures to protect employees who work in or near confined spaces. It addresses how to protect employees from confined-space hazards. The proposed standard includes requirements for training, hazard analysis, classification, entering, working, exiting, and rescue for confined spaces of various hazard levels.

This proposed standard does not replace the more hazard-specific construction standards that are already in place. Rather, this proposed standard is designed to provide additional protections needed to deal with hazards that may arise when employees are working in or near a confined space. The proposed standard is very detailed; for more information, visit OSHA's website at www.osha.gov.

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