

RAPID RESPONSE MOBILE TRAINING (IMI)

Highlights:

- Delivers quality training where and when it is needed most – in just 12 weeks.
- Avoids manpower shortage concerns
- No cost to trainees or taxpayers
- Skilled, high-paying jobs upon completion
- Can be customized for specific design, job site, or community needs
- Real job site conditions

This innovation addresses two of the most pressing concerns of people involved in construction today: an adequate supply of skilled craft workers, and, the perpetual issue: tight schedules. When there simply is no time to send potential craft workers through a formal training program, and there certainly is no time to start a program from scratch, International Masonry Institute (IMI) dispatches one of its three mobile training units.

The “Rapid Response” Mobile Training units crisscross the country, delivering career opportunities and quality training right where it is needed most, while making sure masonry contractors don’t miss opportunities, and building owners and construction managers don’t have to worry about skilled craft workers.

These semi-trailers carry tools, tents, multimedia equipment, and classroom space — everything needed to train up to 20 pre-apprentices for 12 intense weeks. Along with technical subjects, which include safety and health, blueprint reading, and math, the program uses a series of mockups of all types of masonry details. Students work eight-hour days in this construction site environment to prepare for the reality of the job site.

This career training comes at no cost to participants or taxpayers, and graduates have well-paying jobs waiting for them upon completion. Trainees get a stipend and tools.

IMT works with contractors, local unions, community leaders, project owners, designers, managers, and contractors. Typically, a program is activated – sometimes within two weeks or *less* – when a community faces a building boom, and manpower needs are clear. More specialized applications include the Learning Corridor project in Hartford, Connecticut in 1999, where IMI addressed the community’s need for career training and jobs and the contractors’ need for manpower, while providing a great community relations advantage to everyone. A similar experience in New Jersey in 1999 helped keep the state’s massive Light Rail project on track.

First launched in 1997, the program took off running (literally). Fifteen mobile programs were delivered in 1999, with one dozen so far in 2000. For more, go to www.imiweb.org

IMI is a joint labor/management cooperative of the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) and signatory contractors. Mobile training is just one of the services paid for by the collectively bargained contributions to IMI

Note: Rapid Response Mobile Training of Masons was also nominated for the 1998 NOVA Awards. Its nomination summary is in the CIF searchable nomination database at www.CIF.org.

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IMI Mobile Training 'Instrumental' In Rebuilding Oklahoma City



"We couldn't have done it without IMI," says Ken Lippert, whose firm, Continental Masonry, built Oklahoma City's new ballpark.

Two of Oklahoma's leading lawmakers credit IMI's 12-week pre-job mobile training program for providing many of the workers needed to build a new baseball stadium and reconstruct the downtown Oklahoma City area demolished by a

terrorist's bomb.

"With the help of IMI," says Oklahoma

State Senator Keith C. Leftwich, "many of the buildings demolished by the terrorist attack on the Alfred P. Murrah bombing have been rebuilt.

"We should all be grateful that training programs such as IMI's exist. It is the finest example of what a joint apprenticeship system is all about. IMI's programs help Oklahomans get better jobs, earn more pay and

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IMI-trained apprentices helped rebuild the bomb-damaged city and build a victims' memorial.

become more productive."

Leftwich is Majority Whip of the Oklahoma State Senate and serves on a number of important committees. His impressions were echoed by State Representative William R. Paulk. "The completed projects are monuments to a job well done," Paulk says. "The real gifts are the skills provided to workers who now have the indispensable training to become valuable members of society."

The new, \$38 million AAA baseball stadium for the Oklahoma City Redhaws was built by an aggressive local mason contractor who depended on IMI's 12-week pre-job mobile training program for apprentices.

"Our new ballpark was a terrific project for us," says Ken Lippert, manager for Continental Masonry of Oklahoma City. "But we couldn't have done it without the help of IMI. Work is good around here, and journeymen bricklayers are hard to find. IMI helped us train 15 new bricklayers of 'our own' for this project. We simply could not have completed the job without them."

Lippert says the new apprentices, once they finished their 12-week IMI training, were put right to work. "They were motivated," he says. "They knew what to do."

The new stadium is built in an old-fashioned style, to better meld into its surrounding older "Bricktown" neighborhood. Along with fancy corbels and recesses and unusual bond, they left some window openings to be filled later with different brick, to look old. "It's great our apprentices got to participate in the building of these details," says Lippert. "It's something they'll always remember."