

Secretary Solis Pays a Visit to the IUPAT Job Corps Program in Southern California

Late last year, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Hilda Solis visited the Long Beach IUPAT Job Corps Program in Southern California to congratulate IUPAT instructors and personnel for placing the most Job Corps students into a formal apprenticeship program after graduation than any other program in 2009.

Secretary Solis spent nearly an hour of her time on a tour of the shop and was particularly impressed with the IUPAT glazing students as they showed her a few tips of the trade. She also tried her hand at using some of the glazing tools under their careful guidance. The secretary encouraged each of the Job Corps students to stay on the path to a successful future in the finishing trades, and to stick with their training in the IUPAT.

Solis took the opportunity to hold a short news conference at the training center, where she expressed her support of Job Corps, and commended the excellent training and mentoring the students receive from their IUPAT instructors.

The secretary also spent part of the trip on promoting the Obama administration's United We Serve, an initiative aimed at increasing volunteer community service.

Later in the visit, local Los Angeles building trades workers joined Solis on a volunteer project to help build and paint a green home for a low-income disabled veteran. IUPAT District Council 36 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Grant Mitchell, Political Director Robert Smith and Long Beach IUPAT Job Corps Glazing Instructor Michael Sanchez were instrumental in generating a great turnout of union workers for the event. Also helping were Daniel Villao of the Los Angeles and Orange County Building Trades Council and members of IBEW Local 11.



Flanked by applauding members of the IUPAT District Council 36 and other members of the local building trades, U.S. Department of Secretary Hilda Solis proudly displays her new IUPAT District Council 36 shop card.



One of the IUPAT Job Corps students becomes the teacher as he gives our Secretary of Labor lessons in cutting glass like a true IUPAT craftsman.



During a news conference at the Long Beach IUPAT Job Program Center, Secretary Solis commended the training and mentoring each student receives in our program.