



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 18, 2003

Contact: Ms. Leah Dortch Nesbitt
(404) 526-9377

The Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance Presents Construction Skills Development Institute Career Day at Atlanta Metropolitan College

(Atlanta, Georgia, March 18, 2003) - **The Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance** (The Alliance) will host approximately 200 high school students for a tour, lunch and presentation on summer internship opportunities. The **Career Day** is scheduled **Thursday, April 3, 2003**.

Research shows that the average construction worker is 49 years of age. Based on this data, there will be a serious shortage of construction workers within the next 10 years. The **Construction Skills Development Institute (CSDI) Summer Internship Program** was designed to address this shortage.

The Program recruits high school students (16 to 18 years of age), introduce them to a career - not just a job - opportunity and provide them with exposure and hands-on experience in the various fields of construction. The objective of this program is to encourage students to choose construction as a career of choice.

Students are recommended from area high schools and technical colleges. They are offered the opportunity to participate in the Program. Atlanta Technical College administers training for the students with a curriculum designed especially to enable them to receive the *Certified Construction Worker Certificate*.

The college courses are recognized at Atlanta Technical College, as well as every other technical college in the State of Georgia. Upon completion of the training, the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia assists in providing paid internship positions for each student placed with participating employers.

The following companies supported the 2002 CSDI Summer Internship Program:

- United Forming
- New South Construction

- H.J. Russell and Company
- Beers/Skanska
- International Aviation Consultants
- FAD Consulting, LLC
- Benise Dowling

The Greater Atlanta Economic Alliance (The Alliance) was established to address the need for small, female and minority-owned construction firms to obtain coordinated and cost effective information and education on available opportunities within the Atlanta Hartsfield International Airport expansion project and other available contracting opportunities in our region. The mission of the Alliance is to build capacity, capability and opportunity for small, female and minority owned enterprises within the construction industry.

Recognizing that there is a shortage of skilled construction workers in the Greater Atlanta region, the Alliance, in cooperation with Atlanta Public School Systems, Atlanta Technical College, and the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia created the **Construction Skills Development Institute**. The goal of the Construction Skills Development Institute is to train, recruit and retain a diverse construction industry workforce from the underemployed, unskilled and displaced workers throughout the Greater Atlanta area.

#