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SR

1-8-04 for

FN 031050

Good Jobs and A Commitment to Diversity
Building Trades Minority Employment and Apprenticeship Data
November 5, 2003

There is much public debate about strategies for increasing good jobs in our community. All data agree that Union jobs provide the highest standard of compensation and benefits. According to the US Labor Department, union workers earn 26% more than non-union workers. Some in our community argue that minority workers are excluded from the benefits of union membership, especially in the Building and Construction Trades. **It's time to set the record straight!**

Minority members are a significant percentage of the membership in the construction trades, especially in the City of Milwaukee:

**Building Trades
Diversity Data**

Union*	Members	City of Milwaukee Residents	% of Total Members Minority**	% of City Members Minority
Steamfitters Local 601	2245	316	11.50%	
Insulators Local 19	263	42		28.50%
Operating Engineers Local 139	8735	246		29.60%
Sprinkler Fitters Local 183	190	28		42.80%
Carpenters	4856	789	5%	
Painters and Allied Trades	843	346		20%
Laborers 113	1650	N/A	36%	
Electrical Workers 494	2792	528		23.80%
Bricklayers Local 8	610	108	8%	

*Some of these Locals are regional, others are statewide

**Not all locals were able to break out City of Milwaukee data

The Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades Council continues to work to improve these numbers, and the future continues to look bright. The Big Step Skilled Trades Employment Program recruits and prepares youth for apprenticeships in the trades. Over the past 3 years, 313 Big Step recruits have taken the apprenticeship test. Women and minority workers comprise 44% of the test takers; 48% of those who passed the test; and 41% of those who gained employment as indentured apprentices.

Non-union contractors, who provide substandard wages and benefits, and who do not participate in the apprenticeship programs, are the loudest complainers about minority participation in the trades. The non-union sector continues to undermine good jobs in our community, while refusing to play their part in training the next generation.