HBI Training for America’s Veterans

HBI (Home Builders Institute), a 501(c)(3) corporation based in Washington, D.C., is a national leader for career training focusing on vocational trades serving the building industry. HBI programs are taught in local communities nationwide to an array of youth and adult populations. With a job placement rate for HBI graduates of 80 percent, HBI training programs consistently benefit our graduates, the communities where they live and work and our nation.

HBI is dedicated to training our nation’s most deserving heroes—returning veterans. HBI helps shape career aspirations for existing armed services veterans and those returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. HBI offers a customized, flexible training approach based on each veteran’s needs and provides a continuum of learning and tangible connections with the nation’s building sector.

HBI’s History of Training Veterans

HBI veterans training dates back to the Vietnam era when HBI partnered with the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) on the Veterans Construction Job Clearinghouse, providing returning service men and women with nearly 10,000 career training and employment referrals. Later, HBI teamed with the U.S. Department of Defense on Operation Transition, training more than 5,000 veterans on 10 military bases throughout the U.S. HBI also worked with DOL/VETS (Veterans Employment Training) to help female veterans connect with jobs in Tennessee’s home building industry. In Columbia, S.C., HBI has trained homeless veterans and placed them in employment.

HBI presently trains veterans in Jacksonville, Miami and Tampa through the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity.

HBI’s Approach for Veterans

HBI’s model is a continuum of training and support services from initial student engagement to securing employment with regular assessments throughout the program. Key components include student recruitment; case management; screening and assessment; individualized plan development; academic, building industry trade skills and life-skills training; support services including re-employment counseling and career development; employability skills and job search development; and placement assistance including relocation. Training typically takes 12 to 15 weeks.

HBI believes a critical component of working with veterans is providing mentoring with industry professionals and exposure to career ladders within the building sector. Through proven mentoring strategies, HBI builds awareness about the multiplicity of careers in the building industry.

HBI’s Training Regimen

The basis for HBI’s training is its industry-recognized and validated Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT) program. PACT integrates work-based learning with vocational and academic skills training. All PACT graduates receive an industry certificate and are placed in employment by HBI employment specialists. HBI also offers additional industry-sponsored advanced training including apprenticeship and superintendent training for students desiring to advance their skills.

For more information on HBI training programs, please visit HBI.org.