

## CAREER AWARENESS PRESENTATION OUTLINE

CWIT holds career awareness presentations weekly at our offices and off site as requested to provide frequent and immediate opportunity for women to obtain information about the industry, assess their interest and qualifications, and, if they determine that they want to pursue a construction career, understand the options available to them and the content, enrollment process and timeline for the Technical Opportunities Program, our pre-apprenticeship.

### Typical Schedule

**I. Video** - provides a good overview of apprenticeship benefits, challenges and entry routes and introduces them to some successful tradeswomen. (link to video)

**II. Introductions** - These are usually small group sessions, so we ask them to tell us a little bit about why they came so we can tailor information to answer their questions or clarify any misconceptions.

**III. Overview of Chicago Women in Trades and women's participation in the construction industry, emphasizing:**

- Agency history and mission
- Women make up just 3% of the construction industry
- Why this matters to women's economic equity
- Why women should be interested in construction careers
  - Earn while you learn
  - Portable skills and wages
  - High hourly wages with benefits
  - Pride in accomplishment
- Why this is still a challenge and what it takes to succeed

**IV. Overview of the construction industry**

- How is the construction industry organized?
- What is an apprenticeship program?
- What are the requirements and qualifications apprenticeship programs look for?
- What can you expect as an apprentice, wages, training, benefits etc.
- How to research various programs and their requirements



## **V. Is a career in construction right for you?**

- Discussion of barriers including seasonal work, unpaid pre-apprenticeship programs, likelihood of being the only or one of just a few women on the job site or in apprenticeship class, working conditions and schedules, industry expectations, childcare, transportation etc.
- Refer to self-assessment tool in the career education booklet

## **V. Description of CWIT programs and enrollment process**

- Course goals
- Course schedule and content
- Course requirements and commitment
- Sign up for an assessment date

### **Hand-outs:**

- Career education guide
- Participant information sheet to be completed and returned to the presenter
- Summary of course content and requirements
- Assessment session reminder sheet

