

## ■ NEW CASTLE SCHOOL OF TRADES

6th Congressional District

The growing oil and gas industry in northern Ohio is creating job opportunities for workers who have the needed skills. That's welcome news to an area with a poverty rate of 37.4 percent, unemployment rate of 14.4 percent and median family income of 45.1 percent.

A \$28,800 predevelopment grant from Finance Fund enables the Community Action Agency of Columbiana County to provide the needed vocational training for workers who are unemployed or under-employed due to incompatible skills. Through the New Castle School of Trades (NCST), workers are being retrained to be competitive in the marketplace.

Student enrollment is anticipated at 150 for the first year and will grow to 350 students within four years. In addition to the oil and gas industry, students will learn skills necessary to secure jobs in a number of growing sectors.

*"Programs such as this, work hard to match job skills training with job opportunities. This not only benefits workers, but employers as well and can help attract and retain industries seeking a ready pool of trained workers,"* said Finance Fund President & CEO James R. Klein.

Finance Fund's predevelopment grant will be used to renovate two buildings totaling 50,000 sq. ft. in downtown East Liverpool. The renovated buildings will be home to NCST's welding program, commercial industrial maintenance classes, truck driving classes as well as workshop space for offices and classrooms. Additional improvements to the 1.7 acre site will be used for commercial truck driving skills training course.



### FINANCE FUND INVESTMENT IMPACT:

- Access to vocational training opportunities for worker based skill development
- \$28,800 grant to CAACC to renovate two buildings for training facility
- Support for the creation of 20 full-time, 12 part-time and 30 construction jobs in an area of high unemployment.



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