

Pathways to Green Jobs

...a partnership of a
community college and a
community-based
organization



Wilbur Wright College
(one of the City Colleges of Chicago)

&

Instituto del Progreso Latino



CITY COLLEGES of CHICAGO
Wilbur Wright
Education that Works

Wilbur Wright College- one of the City Colleges of Chicago

Mission: Wright College “is a learning-centered, multi-campus institution of higher education, offering students of diverse backgrounds, talents and abilities, a quality education leading to baccalaureate transfer, career advancement, and/or personal development”

Our Purpose - (at WWC) to ensure students receive quality education, we will provide:

- continuous assessment
- quality instructors
- relevant curricula
- student support services



Instituto del Progreso Latino was incorporated to meet the needs of Latino immigrants to learn English, find employment...and adjust to life in Chicago in a myriad of ways.

Today, Instituto is a recognized educational center serving more than 14,000 participants annually to advance basic academic skills,...increase job skills, and provide assistance with employment opportunities. Their goal is to instill that sense of hope, motivate perseverance, and provide the tools for success.



**INSTITUTO DEL
PROGRESO LATINO**



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Green Jobs Bridge Program with Instituto del Progreso Latino

- Purpose: Connect limited English speakers/low literacy individuals to career path employment in “green” technology
- Occupational focus: Building Energy Technology positions – such as Energy Efficiency, Energy Auditing, Building Operator, Alternative Energy and Construction



Green Jobs Bridge - continued...

- ❖ Target population: Latino immigrants, dislocated workers - based on POP (Pathways out of Poverty) grant and is geographically based
- ❖ Educational levels: Multiple entry and exit points. Can begin pathway at mid-level ESL or higher, depending on assessment



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Program Design Considerations

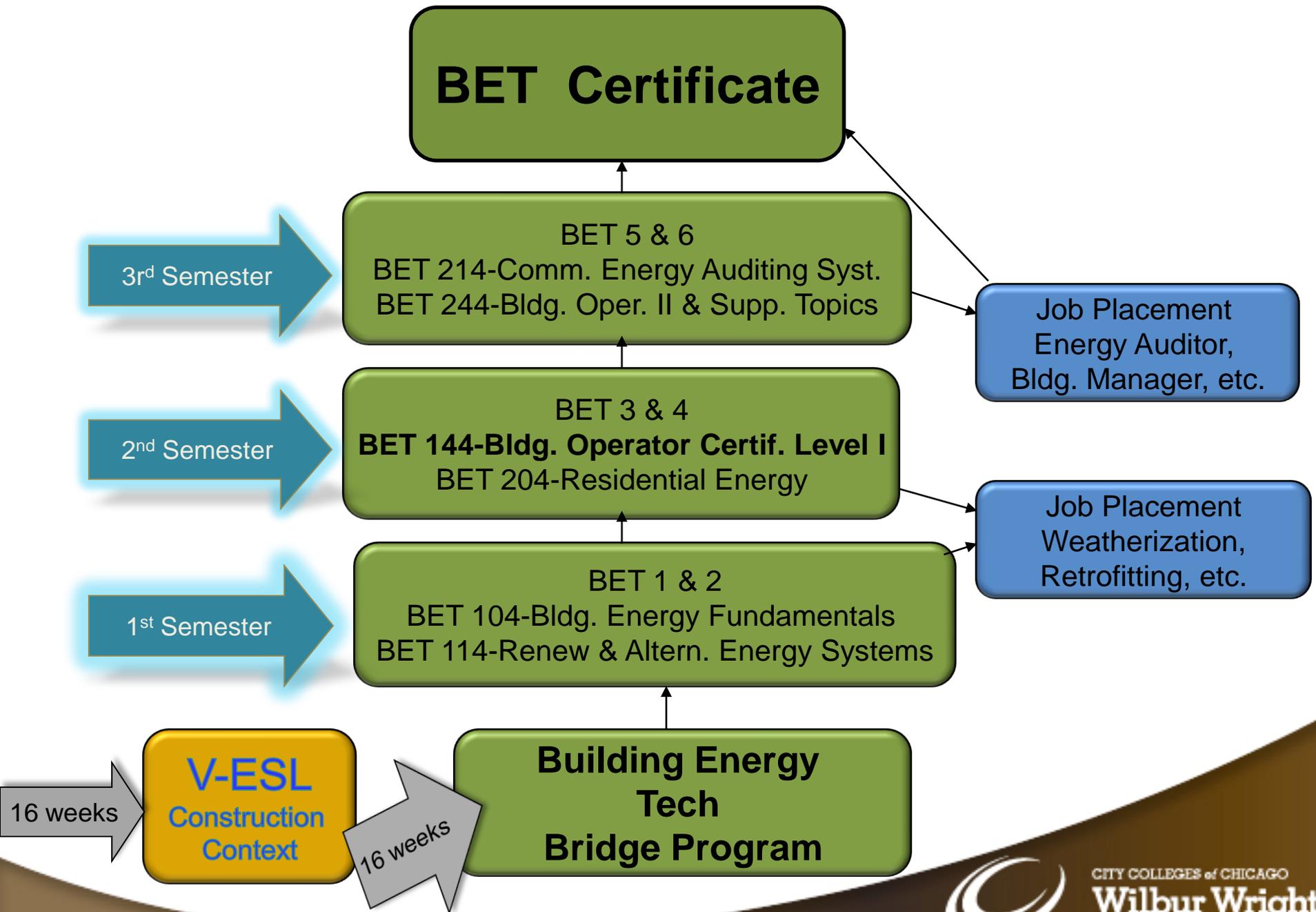
Skills Requirements – Construction
experience

a career and occupational pathway

Language – minimum grade level in reading
English

Certifications – BOC (Building Operator
Certificate) and BET (Building
Environmental Technology)





Key Program Components

- **VESL – Vocational English as a Second Language - Contextualization from general to more technically specific**
- **Screening - getting the right students**
- **Staff - a “deep knowledge” of the industry**
- **Evening schedule available**
- **Hands-on training with industry equipment**
- **Support services-advising, tutoring and transportation**



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The “Add-On”

In the Spring Semester, 2011, the IHWAP / USDOE Weatherization Training Center at WWC began to enroll Instituto students in this week-long workforce training program to provide individuals with an extra credentialing opportunity.

This is a Cont. Ed, not Credit, curriculum, and the enrollment and screening criteria are different, but can result in a more immediate employment opportunity



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Partners & Roles

Instituto:

- Recruitment and screening
- Counseling and support services
- Contextualized English, math and basic computers (*Bridge program*)
- Job readiness and placement assistance
- Overall coordination and fiscal management of the POP-Pathways out of Poverty) Grant
- Instructor Certification and Training



Partners & Roles

Wright College:

- Recruitment and screening (COMPASS)
- Advisement
- Instructional Services
- Instructor Certification and Training
- Job readiness assistance (Soft Skills)
- Routine Academic Program Activities



Potential Additional & Future Funding

Bridge program contract with the City of Chicago – Dept. of Family Support Services (DFSS) under the Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

Individual Training Account (ITA) vouchers under WIA

ICCB Adult Education funding GED option and planning for beginning level of the Bridge program



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Challenges...

- ❖ Challenges – On-going funding
- ❖ Improve retention and completion rates
- ❖ Connecting graduates to employment in a slow economy
- ❖ Transition to more advanced certificate programs – timing, financial aid, etc.



Lessons

- CBO/College partnership – regular & frequent communication
- Curricula – continue to refine & integrate across classes with instructor and student input
- Instructors – quality is critical – support & train
- Counseling – support services also critical



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Environmental Educational Experiences ...at Wright



Photos of Solar Water Heating Panels and Heat Exchange System in Operation - Roof and Mechanical Penthouse, Science Building - Wilbur Wright Campus - June 28, 2007



Photos of Photovoltaic Panels and Inverter in Operation - Southern Inlets of parking garage - Wilbur Wright Campus - June 28, 2007

