



NCCTI Building Trades Graduate Now Owns Construction Business



Yusto Awich successfully completed the Building Trades program at New Community Career and Technical Institute in 2017 and now owns his own construction business.

Students of New Community Career and Technical Institute (NCCTI) earn certifications in their field of study and are well prepared for jobs after graduation. While many graduates obtain employment from others, some branch out on their own. Yusto Awich is one of those students. He completed the Building Trades Specialist program in 2017 and today he owns and operates his own general construction business.

Awich owns Pafya General Construction in Newark, which he started last August. He always knew he wanted to open his own business and enjoyed the building trades and construction industry.

This is a second career for Awich, who served as a New York City school teacher for about 10 years, teaching biology and sciences. He took an early retirement and decided to pursue a building trades career.

Awich lived in Newark and saw that New Community had an accredited school. He also heard about the institution through the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development, which he became involved in after his early retirement from teaching.

He is happy he signed up for classes at NCCTI.

“The school is great. It’s probably one of the best. I don’t think that any offerings anywhere else would be different from what we have,” Awich said. “It gave us a real hands-on experience of what to do. I think it’s a wonderful place to attend if you’re willing and ready to learn something. You’ll get all you want to learn.”

NCCTI Director Rodney Brutton said the goal is to prepare students for successful careers, whether it’s being an employee or a business owner.

“The scale and scope of our Building Trades program really enables our graduates to not only pursue opportunities in an apprenticeship program and other construction careers, but also ensures they have the skills and competencies to start their own construction businesses,” he said. “Our curriculum is multifaceted. It’s based on acquiring the necessary competencies and it’s very hands-on, very practical.”

Awich also liked the fact that the class size was small.

“You get the full attention of your instructor and everything that is happening, every topic that is discussed,” he said.

William Robinson serves as the Building Trades instructor for NCCTI. Awich said he was very knowledgeable and helpful.

“Even after I left the school, he was still there able to assist me with any information that I wanted,” Awich said of Robinson. “And he’s very personable with the students. If you’re willing and ready to learn, he’ll help you out in whatever you want to start.”

Robinson said Awich was a very good student who helped his peers if they found the work challenging.

“He was a dedicated, hardworking student and always on time for class,” Robinson said. “He asked some challenging questions. He always put my brain to work.”

To help him launch his business, Awich attended several small business classes. There he learned the process and registered Pafya General Construction with the state of New Jersey.

Pafya General Construction offers construction services that include painting, framing, electrical, flooring, tiling and plumbing. Awich mainly works in residential buildings and also does bathroom renovations and kitchen cabinet installations. He does much of the work himself and hires people to help with jobs when necessary, including NCCTI students on occasion.



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Right now, Awich said he gets jobs through word of mouth from clients. He currently works with a company that owns 56 homes that calls him when work is needed. He said it's good experience because he is able to work and he can use the company as a reference for future prospective clients.

While Awich also worked in maintenance for another company, he said his training from NCCTI really helped him launch his business.

"We covered everything," he said. "We did everything that is necessary for somebody to branch out."

Brutton said entrepreneurship is a career path for students in the Automotive Technician, Building Trades Specialist and Culinary Arts Specialist programs that NCCTI encourages.

"Yusto was able to take advantage of all of the services provided through the career and technical institute and utilized these resources to create his own business," Brutton said.

Pafya General Construction can be reached at 718-844-0305.

NCCTI is an accredited post-secondary career and technical school that offers the following programs: Automotive Technician, Diesel Technician, Building Trades Specialist, Clinical Medical Assistant, Patient Care Technician, Culinary Arts Specialist and Business and Computer Technologies. Those interested in enrolling should call 973-824-6484 or visit www.newcommunity.org. The school is located at 274 South Orange Ave., Newark, with the Training Center that houses Automotive, Diesel and Building Trades programs located at 210 West Bigelow St., Newark.