

Olympic Delivery Authority – Women’s Project

On Tuesday 30th September @ 11am The London 2012 Women’s Project came in to the college at Acton to speak with the female construction students.

The London 2012 Women’s Project was developed by the Olympic Delivery Authority in conjunction with the LDA and Construction Skills in recognition of:

- Skills shortages in the construction industry
- Occupation gender segregation in the construction industry
- Significant barriers facing women wishing to enter the construction industry.

The aim of the visit was to spread awareness of the support on offer, for female construction trainees. The Project will be sourcing vacancies; assisting women to find employment on the Olympic park construction site and offering them support both pre and post employment.

Of the 16+ age group, there are currently 35 female students registered on construction courses at the college and of those 14 attended the session. Following an introduction by Kath Moore and Siân Hughes the students were free to ask questions and express their views.

There was a lively discussion: Kath and Siân were really pleased with the feedback provided, which often highlighted the ingrained levels of inequality within the industry. The positive aspect to this discussion is the shared awareness of the problem and the need for ‘positive action’ to remedy the disparity.

The need for work experience (even if unpaid) to allow for the NVQ assessment of the students work is one way forward to balance inequality. Without site experience an NVQ can not be assessed, without an NVQ there is less opportunity for women to find work in the industry.

The commitment of employers is vital to offer this experience and redress the imbalance.

Any construction employers who are specifically interested to offer work experience and employment for women, please contact: -

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