

COLLABORATIONS

The DO SCHOOL Quarterly Newsletter

Fourth Edition, Vol. 1

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The Live Learning Lab Experience

For the months of May and June, the CAN DO Crew has been presented various training experiences and gained many new skills! Firsthand. One-on-one. Small group. Team work. Hands on. On-the-job. They have measured and cut, listened and learned, drilled and dug, demonstrated, problem solved, discussed, used critical-thinking and logical-thinking skills, taken

leadership roles and been an active team player.

These young men have been guided by the expert and capable professionals, who took their partnership seriously: understanding their assignments and showcasing their willingness to impart what they know into TDS crew to help provide them a more assured foundation to further build their careers upon.

Under John Butterfield Williamson's leadership, as site supervisor, the crew framed the house according to the interior design for bedrooms, bathroom, kitchen, closets and laundry room. There's an open floor plan for the living and dining area. And externally, they rebuilt the front porch from the foundation up and began the siding installation. Additionally, the crew worked beside brick masons and stucco installers.

The month of June was spent primarily with the licensed trades. And the hands-on training received has been second to none.

(REFER to **Live Learning Lab Continued** on Page 2)

What has been most beneficial (to date) to you in your time in the program?

"Learning some small details about some of the vast fields that are in construction."

"The most beneficial to me has been the hands-on work to fully experience the knowledge and instruction that was given to me by experts in the construction industry from some of the best companies in the Triad area."

"The time spent on the worksite with Mr. John and in the [life skills] classroom with Mr. Clay."

Message from the Executive Director



The Do School is nearing the completion of its initial home renovation project at its Underwood Avenue 'learning lab.' In just a few short weeks, this pilot rendition will have delivered the first four trainees to have completed its course of study, a completely renovated home, and the opportunity for someone from an under-resourced community to become a homeowner.

There is an enormous sense of pride in seeing our community support the mission and vision of the Do School in training women and men who are often overlooked in workforce development and the promise of economic equity. Wherever we have sought participation in this model, the response has been overwhelmingly, YES!!

Businesses in our community, organizations with historical ties to Winston-Salem, people from across the states, and an extensive list of private donors speak to the transcendent effect of collaboration in the pilot of what will become a sustainable journey.

(REFER to **ED's Message Continued** on Page 4)



RIGGED!

The Do School salutes **Jim Wolfston**, Board Vice Chair, for ongoing and recent accomplishments. **RIGGED** was recently awarded the special recognition of Best Short Documentary at the Septimius Awards in Amsterdam.

RIGGED is a feature-length documentary that examines how the value system favoring wealth in our higher education system grows the disparity between rich and poor and thereby undermines the future of American Democracy.

“Higher education is the most important asset in the Learning Age,” says Wolfston, who is the documentary’s Executive Producer, Writer and Narrator. “Collisions with the unexpected and unfamiliar are what best sharpen and prepare innovative minds. Thus, economic inclusion not only promotes social justice and equality of opportunity, it’s also an optimizing strategy for educating tomorrow’s innovators.”

We invite you to watch this award-winning documentary at your earliest opportunity. Visit www.riggeddocumentary.com. To watch Jim’s acceptance speech visit www.thedo-school/news-makers.

Note: The documentary also features local clips with Dr. Craig Richardson, founding director of WSSU’s Center for the Study of Economic Mobility. ∞

"To inspire and promote collaboration in training a capable and sustainable workforce in underserved communities."

DO SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Live Learning Lab Continued

Sutton Brothers ☆ was first on the scene. They came in with their team of technicians, expertise and materials. Explaining the process and the related terminology, Chris and Mike with Sutton Brothers, instructed, allowed the crew to do the work and/or observe what they did. As a team, they plumbed the bathroom, kitchen and laundry room; explained the logic behind it all (surface and beneath the surface) and when the week was over the house had running water.

Johnson’s Modern Electric ☆ arrived the week after the plumbers and under Butch’s instruction and watchful eye, the crew wired the house. Color-coded cables and repeating from room to room was definitely helpful here because everyone understands that electrical work is very detailed and leaves little room for error.

Superior Mechanical, Inc. ☆ (HVAC) finished up the work by wiring for the heat, fans, AC, power, etc. Under Nathan’s leading, here again, the repetition helped the crew to understand and wire accordingly as to what will be external and internal and then utilizing the reversing valve appropriately.

All in all, the crew felt it’s been an amazing learning experience! It gave them lots to think about, lots to do, and even more to take into consideration as they plan for their future. ∞ **☆SPECIAL THANKS to these three POWER PARTNERS!!! ☆**



The Tree

The purchase of our first “learning lab” property at 1441 Underwood came with a significant challenge: the tree!

This beautiful old oak was awkwardly positioned on the front lawn, dwarfing the one-story structure and uprooting anything in its path. The tree, thought to be over one hundred years old, had a beautiful canopy and a trunk that took two adults to completely encircle.

In spite of its beauty and expansive, shady footprint, it posed several other problems for the property—it needed to be removed!

Over the years it’s root system lifted and cracked the concrete sidewalk, posing a hazardous situation for pedestrian traffic and because of its proximity to the house, 1441’s foundation would eventually be threatened as well.

Discussions of a solution to these challenges brought no easy answers except that the responsibility was totally on The Do School! The first idea to topple the tree and use a stump grinder to remove its base revealed yet another problem. Early in its growth, the old oak had constricted portions of a chain link fence that was now deeply embedded in its trunk. Toppling the upper portion of the tree left a 3 foot stump which no chain saw nor grinder would go near. Yikes!!!



The focus now turned to a way of dislodging this stump with an unknown network of roots that obviously commanded a good portion of the front lawn. After weeks of inquiry and, yes, pleading for help, one brave company took on the task and made it happen. A huge hole requiring lots of backfill and photos of that majestic, beautiful creation are all that remained!!

Milestones Moments

Some pictures to demonstrate how the work is coming along as we enter this third quarter of 2022.



More Milestone Moments



E.D.'s Message Continued

Finally, in our upcoming acknowledgment of the completion of this course of study, Malik, Chandler and Abdul will join Kodjo as Do School alums. I invite every opportunity-seeker who wishes to represent the efforts of those who GIVE to join forces with the Do School in realizing your dreams.

Very Best Regards,

Jerry W. Anderson, Founder/Executive Director

Meet The CAN DO Crew

You've often read or heard referenced **The C.A.N. D.O. Crew** throughout the past year or so. So in this edition, we wanted to share a little more about the real people behind that title.

Malik—Dedicated individual who is focused and passionate about obtaining new information. He likes the critical thinking, logical thinking and problem solving associated with the rehab work. Brand new to construction, he has learned so much! His personality and sense of humor add to the work environment in a positive light.

Abdul—A hardworking, reliable, and dependable individual who is trying to learn all he can about the different skills involved in construction. He enjoyed the training from the licensed trade professionals as well as the framing, masonry, siding and other work done to the learning lab property. He loves seeing the finished work; when the task has been completed.

Chandler—the last to be enrolled of these three, can hold his own on the worksite. He is thankful for being accepted into the program and tries to learn as much as he can. He really enjoyed the framing of the learning lab and said "Mr. John is a great teacher." Chandler learned so much from framing walls and ceilings, building headers for windows and internal/external doors, laying the subfloor, and even from tearing down and rebuilding the front porch.

Not sure what **C.A.N. D.O.** references? Ask either of them. I'm sure they would be eager to tell you.☺