



***THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK  
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER LEROY COMRIE***

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**\*\*PRESS RELEASE\*\***

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**COUNCIL MEMBER LEROY COMRIE AND THE  
BLACK LATINO & ASIAN CAUCUS (BLAC) TO  
RECOGNIZE 10,000<sup>th</sup> PERSON TO OBTAIN  
EMPLOYMENT THROUGH THE JOBS TO BUILD  
ON PROGRAM**

On June 13, 2012, in front of the steps of City Hall, Council Member Leroy Comrie and members of the BLAC will honor Tyrone Freeman, the 10,000<sup>th</sup> person to successfully obtain a job through the Jobs to Build On Program (JtBO) administered by the Consortium for Worker Education (CWE).

Mr. Freeman works for K & G Stores as an Assistant Manager where his annual salary is \$50,000.00 (\$25.24 per hour). He was looking for work for a year, and after participating in the East River Development Alliance (ERDA) program, he received his new job on May 21, 2012.

Over the past five years, the New York City Council and the BLAC, have played a crucial role in improving the education and employment opportunities of thousands of New Yorkers, through the creation and funding of (JtBO). The City Council's partnership with CWE has changed the nature of worker services in New York City. Through a network of unions and community based organizations, CWE has successfully trained tens of thousands of low-income residents in the most burdened of our city's neighborhoods and employed thousands of them.

This cost-free program offers courses throughout the city to people who need training in English as a second language, to obtain a General Education Diploma (GED), computer literacy, and improvement in interviewing and networking skills.

"With New York City having one of the largest unemployment rates in the country, I am proud to have had a hand in creating the Jobs To Build On program" said **Council Member Leroy Comrie**. "As we celebrate the ten-thousandth person to have earned a job, we need to continue our efforts to help New Yorkers who are still unemployed obtain the skills and education

necessary to obtain one. This is a program we need to continue to fund and expand and I look forward to working with Speaker Quinn and the BLAC in continuing these efforts.”

**Council Member Fernando Cabrera:** “As Co-Chair of the NYC Council Black, Latino and Asian Caucus, I am proud to recognize this special achievement and to support the Jobs to Build On Program administered by the Consortium for Worker Education. Whether unemployed or underemployed, thousands of New Yorkers have benefited from this powerful network of unions and community based organizations. Through training, education and employment opportunities, many low-income residents have successfully secured jobs and a brighter future.”

**Council Member Robert Jackson:** “It is with great pride that I congratulate the Jobs to Build On Program for reaching their ten thousandth milestone. Five years ago, the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus called for a workforce development program that would bring real employment opportunities to areas of the city with the highest population of unemployed New Yorkers. The Consortium for Worker's Education heeded this call and joined forces with the Caucus to create the Jobs to Build On Program. Thanks to JtBO's successful and unique model, thousands of unemployed New Yorkers have gained meaningful employment through skills training, networking and new opportunities. The Caucus looks forward to working with Speaker Quinn in continuing to support programs like these that get concrete results in getting our people back into the workforce.”

**Council Member Charles Barron:** “Jobs to Build On filled it’s mission superbly by placing ten thousand people in jobs throughout the city and I was honored to be one of the Council Member’s who initiated the project.”

**Council Member Julissa Ferreras:** “I want to congratulate the Jobs to Build On program and Consortium for Worker Education on helping 10,000 people to obtain gainful employment, a major fete in this economic climate. At a time when we are fighting to keep and restore funding to so many important community groups this is a major accomplishment for not only JBO and CWE but also for my colleagues Council Member Leroy Comrie and Co-Chairs of the Black, Latino and Asian Caucus Council Members Jackson and Cabrera. We must continue to fund groups like this as we help get more New Yorkers back into the work force and help boost this City’s economy.”

**Tyrone Freeman:** “I was laid off April 15 2011 then went to ERDA April 18 of 2011 and thirteen months to the day I entered the program, I received a job. Going through the program and participating in mock interviews, resume building, and access to computer labs, all helped with the process. The best thing about it was that everything was free. They even gave me a metro card to go to my interview. The staff was very professional and it gave me a sense of comfort to know I had resources in the community to rely on.”

JtBO is a partnership between labor unions, community groups, and workforce providers that is funded by the City Council.

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