



*Opportunity starts here*

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**Rohland Bryant, Plumbing Apprentice Instructor**

**October 2022**

#### Greetings Stakeholders:

The Fall semester was briefly halted in the wake of Hurricane Ian.

During the school closure, I worked at the Campbell Park Elementary shelter which was co-managed by Pinellas County Schools. St. Pete Police, and Pinellas County Public Works. The team made the operation a success through from opening to closing. It felt like we worked together for years prior to the event. This was also well coordinated from the EOC to our site.

We had over 80 people who sought shelter as the storm passed. This same location had over 700 people during Hurricane Irma in 2017. Smaller number but great communication amongst the partners.

During Hurricane Irma, I served as incident commander for a large special needs shelter with over 1,300 people and 329 pets. That shelter consisted of a team from Pinellas County Health Department, Pinellas County Animal Control, the American Red Cross and Hospice.

The shelter provided a safe place for people to weather the storm. We are preparing our cadets to serve the public during our community's time of need. All cadets are required to complete the FEMA training as part of their matriculation through the academy. They will be ready in a time of need.

Public Works is Service to the Public.

Dr. Dallas Jackson

#### Public Works Class 109 Started October 3, 2022



**Class 109 started October 3, 2022 with 13 students being funded by St. Pete Works.**

The new class will embark on the first Occupational Completion Point over the next two months where they will learn about the various departments within the Public Works field.

This class will also participate in additional trainings that include Locating utilities, introduction to Drones technologies, and heavy equipment.

The class is composed of veterans, recent high school graduates and those at various stages of career change.

#### **CITY LEADERSHIP GREETES NEW CLASS**

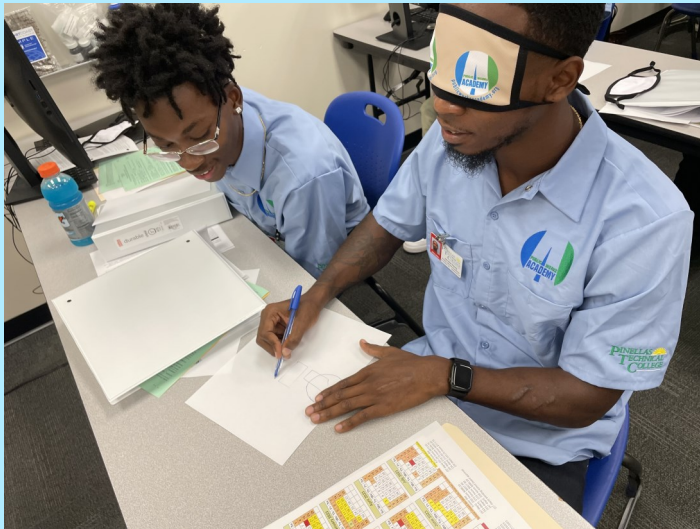


Brian Anderson, '97 PWA graduate, now manager of Stormwater greets class 109 with two of his supervisors. As an advocate of PWA and passionate leader, he encouraged the cadets to consider working for his department. Cadets have many opportunities within the City of St. Petersburg.

## ***PWA Cadet Class 109 Hit the ground running!***

Week 1: ORIENTATION. Students are introduced to the PWA program and the units of learning. Then they spend the first week working on communication skills and teambuilding exercises.

A critical skill for public work employees is teamwork. Cadets are taught to engage to each other through guided activities and interdependence activities that require input from each person.



## ***Building Trust and Teamwork***

Cadets learned how to talk teammates through a blindfold activity where they had to communicate and guide each other in completing a design task.

As public workers, they will have to explain their work and processes to citizens. This activity demonstrated the importance of word choice, having patience and directed instruction.

***Field Experience Week 2.*** The cadets visited the City of St. Petersburg Stormwater site to learn about the tools used in public works. They arrived early enough to see work crews preparing to go out and complete work orders all of the city. St. Petersburg has over 300,000 residents and this department mitigates the effect of storms that include debris removal, repairing stormwater system failure, and overall systems improvement.





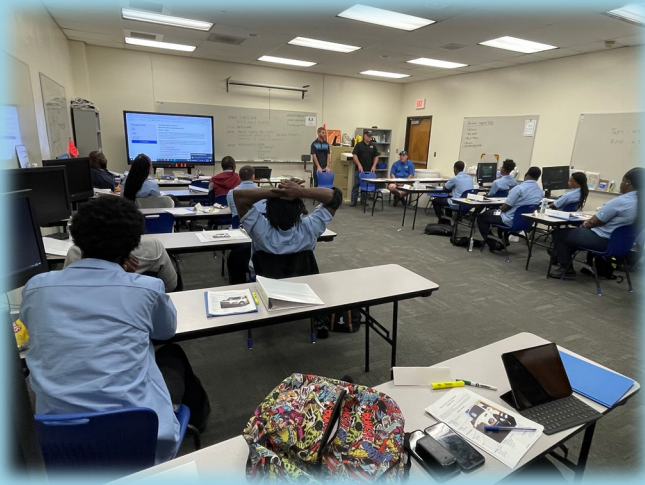
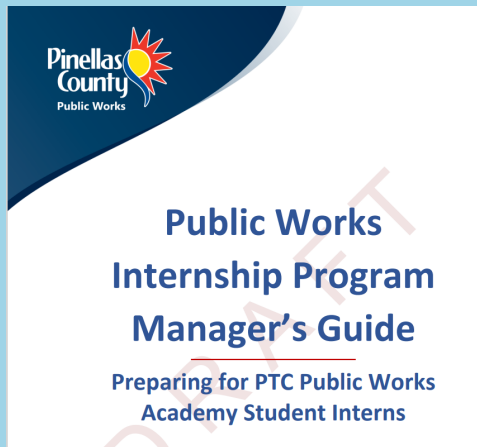
*Apprentices work and learn on the job*



City of St. Petersburg Water Distribution apprentices gets hands on training under the supervision of a foreman. The apprentices also attend class on day a week to prepare for the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) water license.

The licenses authorizes them to install, service, repair, and replace water pipes to ensure potable water is safe for the public. The apprenticeship is four years long.





### **PINELLAS COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS PROVIDES PAID INTERNSHIPS to PWA CADETS**

PWA Class 109 was presented with paid internship opportunities. The county will hire five cadets for their internship experience. They will work 20 hours a week at \$15.00 an hour. The cadets must apply and go through an interview as part of the selection process. The internships are specifically for training and may lead to other opportunities.

The positions available are Stormwater Operations Intern, Tree Care and Landscape Services Intern, Traffic Management Center Intern, Roadway Maintenance Intern, and Signal Technician Intern.

This is the second round of paid internships this school year which led to three full-time job placements. Pinellas County Public works leaders serve on PTC PWA advisory board and provide guidance and support to the program. We appreciate



### **Cadets start the Entry Level Driver Training (ELDT)**

To meet the demand for CDLs in the public works industry, PWA now offers the ELDT theory while cadets are in the program. When they complete the general knowledge and air brakes test at the DMV and receive their permit, they are provided training on our Class B vehicles located on the Commercial Vehicle Driving range. Some public works organizations are now hiring without the CDL permit of ELDT. We are preparing our cadets have the credentials and to have a step up in securing a job.



**New City of St. Petersburg Apprentices**

**Florida Fish and Wildlife**

**Pinellas County Public Works**

**PWA Graduates**

**2022-23 School Year**



**Damien Harris Class 107-St. Petersburg**

**Trevor Courtney Class 107-St. Petersburg**

**James Taylor Class 108-St. Petersburg**

**Jarret O'Connell Class 107-St. Petersburg**

**Kevon Beaton Class 106 -CSt. Petersburg**

**Lois Letvin Class 108 Florida Fish and Wildlife**

**Vincent Moore Class 108– Pinellas County Public Works**

**Antonio James Class 108– Pinellas County Public Works**

**More announcements next month!**





# Public Works Academy Class 108 graduate



*Several will be returning under the apprenticeship program with the City of St. Petersburg.*

*We look forward to seeing them out and about in the public works industry.*



## PTC Drone Flight School Gets Curb Appeal and Results



The drone building is now decked out with signage that touts our FAA approved sUAS approved course. The program has grown a great deal over the past three year and this addition, thanks to Mr. Norwood's approval, gives a permanent home with curb appeal.

The sUAS (Drone) program has yielded ten (10) Part 107 certifications so far this year. In addition the current class includes a cohort of law enforcement officers who are being provided training with a focus on their sector of public service. The PWA cadets participate in the drone flight experience during their course of study.

This year's focus will be on re-launching the advanced techniques course and continuing education courses that are specific to sectors of industry like asset management, inspections, and surveillance.