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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PREP'S DIVERSITY APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM EXPANDS LITERACY, MATH AND TECHNOLOGY SKILLS

PHILADELPHIA, PA – January 14, 2009 - The *Diversity Apprenticeship Program* (DAP), a Philadelphia based employment preparation /pre-apprenticeship program, is pleased to announce a \$75,000 grant from Verizon. The grant will provide funding to expand DAP's current course outline during the next three years to include training to address the need for greater literacy, advanced mathematics and basic technological skills. This will help to offset the barriers to accessing the higher skilled trades to pre-apprentice participants enrolled in the program.

The *Diversity Apprenticeship Program's* primary mission is to increase the number of Philadelphia minority residents employed by the building construction trades. This is accomplished through academic enhancement courses in Mathematics and English, life skills training, financial literacy training, behavior modification, case management and supportive services that prepare minorities to pass the building trades examination and enter apprenticeships. To-date, DAP has prepared and placed over 300 men and women into apprenticeships in the building trade unions in the Philadelphia region and assisted over 600 in receiving non-construction jobs.

“Verizon is committed to improving lives by sparking literacy education and magnifying the impact of technology to help empower individuals to have the skills needed for success in the 21st Century,” said Gale Y. Given, president of Verizon Pennsylvania. “This partnership with PREP's DAP program will help prepare minorities and women to obtain the knowledge and technological skills needed to aspire to careers of their choice.”

“DAP is excited about working with Verizon,” said DAP Director Glenda Collins. “We applaud Verizon for their commitment to assist DAP in expanding our training opportunities over the next three years. DAP's goal is to have a positive impact on the lives of 75-100 individuals through this partnership with Verizon.”