



## MEDIA ADVISORY

### FOR NEWS PLANNING

July 26, 2013

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### **Labor Commissioner Avakian: Young Women Can Build Great Careers in Construction Trades** *Students in Oregon Tradeswomen Inc. summer program gain valuable experience and skills*

**PORTLAND, OR**—Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian will join students from the Oregon Tradeswomen’s Building Girls program during a scavenger hunt and graduation ceremony today at the University of Portland.

What: **Oregon Tradeswomen Inc. summer construction camp graduation and scavenger hunt**  
When: **Friday, July 26th at 1:30 p.m.**  
Where: **University of Portland**

More than 40 middle school girls enrolled in the program will participate in the scavenger hunt.

A recent BOLI study on Oregon’s workforce underscores the importance of increasing access to construction careers for women and people of color through apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs (available upon request). During the tour, Commissioner Avakian will stress how programs like OTI’s help get students prepared for well-paying careers – without skyrocketing student debt. Avakian will also praise the legislature’s recent \$7.5 million investment in 21<sup>st</sup> Century shop classes for Oregon middle schools and high schools.

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### **About BOLI**

The mission of the Bureau of Labor and Industries is to protect employment rights, advance employment opportunities, and ensure access to housing and public accommodations free from discrimination.

**About Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc.**

Founded in 1989, Oregon Tradeswomen, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to promoting success for women in the trades through education, leadership and mentorship. [www.tradeswomen.net](http://www.tradeswomen.net). For more information, press only, contact Mary Ann Naylor: [maryann@tradeswomen.net](mailto:maryann@tradeswomen.net), 503.335.8200 x26.