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ECOlogic awarded grant for workplace development

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Shown (from left) are: Salvador Pina, Roxbury Community College; Tom Moore, ECOlogic; Lorita Williams, Roxbury Community College; Rafael Huertas, ECOlogic; Miguel Tejada, ECOlogic; Jean Carlos Negrón, ECOlogic; Xavier Camacho, ECOlogic; and Roy Ortega, ECOlogic.

Charlestown, MA ECOlogic, a commercial carpet and textile cleaning and restoration expert that also specializes in hard surface restoration, has partnered with Roxbury Community College (RCC) to provide English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and Workplace Literacy Training for its employees through a \$69,000 Workforce Training Fund Grant. The program is designed to allow ECOlogic to increase customer satisfaction and achieve greater client retention by delivering faster and more cost-effective services while minimizing client disruption. The funding will support 330 classroom hours over a two-year period and will be matched by ECOlogic.

RCC is a co-educational public institution of higher education, offering associate degrees, certificate programs, workforce development programs and lifelong learning programs. RCC provides a nurturing environment, where all community members are welcome, regardless of past education.

The College transforms lives through excellence and innovation, preparing learners for active citizenry and success in a changing world.

RCC provides customized training programs by performing an assessment and developing a curriculum to address professional development needs. Training delivery is practical, focused and engaging, providing trainees the opportunity to integrate existing knowledge and experiences with new information and insights. This training model allows participants to strengthen and polish their skill levels to fully carry out job duties in accordance with management's expectations. ECOlogic's customized program includes training at ECOlogic's headquarters on a designated schedule that is convenient for participants and management.

"This marks the first grant provided by the Commonwealth Corporation Workforce Training Fund to help Roxbury Community College subsidize an employer's training program," said RCC vice president of advancement and community relations Lorita Williams. "We are thrilled to partner with ECOlogic on this training program, as customized programs are an important component of our

workforce development portfolio. I'm certain this program will equip ECOlogic employees with the skills needed for career success, while also providing the Commonwealth with a more skilled workforce."

This project is funded by a Workforce Training Fund grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development. The grant program is administered by Commonwealth Corporation.

ECOlogic, a premier carpet, textile and hard surface maintenance provider for more than 20 years, will apply the grant towards an ESOL and Workplace Literacy Training program to improve employee understanding of required job procedures, technical skills and material usage. The program will develop English conversation, reading, and writing skills to improve job effectiveness and help employees achieve organizational efficiency and quality improvement to reduce client callbacks, rework and improve customer satisfaction. In total, 17 professional and technical staff members at ECOlogic will participate in the program.

"ECOlogic is firmly committed to our employees and believe helping them develop skills will improve our customer experience, allow them to earn significantly more throughout their careers and be strong contributors to the economy of the Commonwealth. This labor class typically has few opportunities of which to avail themselves and we are proud to provide them a path to a brighter future," said Tom Moore, co-founder and principal at ECOlogic. "Roxbury Community College was selected because of its platform of experience in workforce development and in-demand skills training using adult learning principles. We are proud to be the recipient of this grant and in a position to enhance the skills of our employees to allow us to provide better service."

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development is responsible for the Workforce Training Fund. The program provides resources to Massachusetts businesses to help address business productivity and competitiveness by funding training for current and newly hired employees.