



Spotlight on the Corridor



CLEVELAND

By Demetrius O. Williams
OC Communications Consultant



Jeffrey Conley

Creating Career Possibilities

The Opportunity Corridor Roadway Project is more than just a road; it's providing employment opportunities and changing lives. Since November 2014 with the additional funding from the Ohio Department of Transportation, Ohio Means Jobs of Cleveland has successfully placed over 300 residents within Wards 4, 5, and 6, surrounding the project, into employment. For Jeffrey Conley, a Ward 4 resident, the Opportunity Corridor Project has changed his life substantially. Mr. Conley, who is known to many as a hardworking, dependable, fun and outgoing individual, was struggling to find quality employment for quite some time.

Running out of options, Mr. Conley was informed by a friend about an opportunity to get into an Apprenticeship Program at McTech Corp. With no prior experience, Mr. Conley was initially hesitant, but he decided to take a chance. "Deciding to sign up for the Apprenticeship Program and work on the Opportunity Corridor was one of the best decisions I've ever made. I am getting the chance to learn every aspect of the construction business," said Mr. Conley. This apprenticeship program is scheduled to last four years and will consist of over 1,000 hours of on the job training each year and hands-on specialized classes. Mr. Conley will not only know the ins and outs of working on a construction site, he will be prepared for the next big construction job opportunity.

Mr. Conley has been in the apprenticeship program for nearly 10 months and since starting, his life has begun to transform. He is continually learning the different aspects of working in construction, and he is more stable financially and currently expecting his first child. Ohio Means Jobs with the help of the Opportunity Corridor Roadway Project wants to give every resident the opportunity to transform and improve their lives just as Mr. Conley. At the end of this four-year Apprenticeship Program, Mr. Conley is confident he will be ready for a wonderful fulfilling career.

For more stories like this one and to find out additional information about the Opportunity Corridor go to <http://opportunitycorridor.transportation.ohio.gov/>.