



Photo by John McGill

Bear Traxx CDL's latest bunch of students and instructors included examiners Jamie and Kasey Hessler, and students William Wolftail, Isaac McKay, Cohdy Lorenzo, April Jimenez, Sheldon Ground, (holding sign LaRan Gallineaux), William Lawrence, Brittney Fish (on truck) and (not pictured) Frank Harrison. The Bear Traxx Instructors are Pierson Gallineaux, Bear Gallineaux and Delphine Bird.

Blackfeet receive CDL Training through International Brotherhood of Teamsters Nat'l Pipeline Training Fund

By BEAR TRAXX CDL
For the Glacier Reporter

Driving a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) requires a significantly higher level of knowledge, experience, skills and physical abilities than required to drive a non-commercial vehicle. Bear Traxx CDL Training of Browning, in partnership with the International Brotherhood of the Teamsters (Teamsters), has provided a CDL training program for Blackfeet Tribal members.

With funding from the

Teamsters National Pipeline Training Fund (TNPTF), the program prepared 10 Blackfeet students with the necessary skills to handle a commercial vehicle in a safe and professional manner. The five-week certificate program prepares trainees for employment in the construction industry as entry level tractor trailer, truck and bus drivers. The Blackfeet students practiced all areas associated with maneuvers required in and around a drop yard, freeway, in-city driving, speed and space management, commu-

nication and emergency situations, and proper pre-and post-trip inspection for the safety of the public as well as the driver and load.

During the training, special precautions addressed the COVID-19 pandemic such as social distancing, temperature readings each morning, requirements for trainees to stay within the facility area once they arrived for the day, hand-washing protocols, and no congregating in groups.

The Teamsters, through funding of the TNPTF,

gives its members training, apprenticeship and job placement as a part of membership - a turnkey workforce development solution. The Teamsters also provide a recruitment solution, dispatching workers from a ready book of active, trained, deployable workers.

"We're partnering with Native American Tribes," said a Teamsters Training Director. "There's a tremendous well of untapped talent, skill and work ethic in Indian Country. We're always looking for ways to connect with Tribes, reach out to their young people and see if our career pathways are a good fit for them."

Kelsey & Kim DiStaso send masks from New Jersey to Tribal Health program

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