



**Monthly E-Newsletter**

**Who are we and what do we do?** The Afghanistan Workforce Development Program (AWDP) works to strengthen jobseekers and employees' skills to match employers' needs and increase the numbers of Afghans with jobs. This e-newsletter highlights project activities and our training partners' achievements. To learn more visit: [www.crea-awdp.com](http://www.crea-awdp.com).

**SMART International** specializes in providing result-oriented training, research and consultancy services. The organization leverages the power of the private sector to help achieve sustainable economic growth in Afghanistan. Its demand-driven approach is used to implement two AWDP grants for Financial Management and Project Management training programs. Participating in AWDP enabled SMART to improve its approach to providing competency-based, modular courses and job-placement services. In the first three months of their grants, 83 (27 women) mid-level professionals were placed in jobs or received a promotion.



**AWDP graduates find jobs:** Hekmatullah Wardak had work experience and a good education, yet struggled to find a job. While participating in the AWDP-funded pre-employment course at SMART, he was called for a job interview. Although excited by this opportunity, Mr. Hekmat was unsure of how to respond to questions during the interview. He sought support from his instructor, who advised him on how to prepare and to attend the interview with confidence. A few days later, he was offered the job and is now working as the Educator with the Danish Refugee Consul. As Mr. Hekmat explains, "the pre-employment service training enabled me to find a good job."

**High standards warrant success:** The AWDP-funded Certified Electrician program provided by DESTINY offers an intensive hands-on training in electrical wiring. This unique program is run by highly skilled professors and experienced technicians who work in a well-equipped lab. Participants gain the technical skills employers demand and learn business communication skills to enable them to secure quality jobs. Some graduates already have found jobs as inspectors, electricians, and assistant electricians.



**Women in color.** CTTC, an AWDP grantee, delivered the first-ever painting class for 40 women in Jalalabad. Participants learned house painting, venetian plastering, sponging, raging, and stencil painting. They were selected by their employers to join the program and will receive promotions or salary increases after upgrading their skills. Some of the women in the course have advanced to inspector level in their companies. "The AWDP support for women in the construction area encouraged me to establish a Women's Construction Company." said Director of Afghan Karyab Company, Nafas Gul.