



# CONSTRUCTION CONNECTIONS

In this Issue . . .

Volume 3, Issue 2 ♦ June 2008

Directors Notes .....	1
Upcoming Events.....	2
Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE).....	3
Bates Green Construction Classes Go Online.....	3
2008 Governors Workforce and Economic Development Conference .....	4
King County Gets Brownfields Grant.....	4
Spokane WorkSource Center is Best in Nation .....	4
WIRED Grant Activities Update ..	5
Summer Construction Week for High Schoolers Seeks Industry Volunteers.....	5
Pierce County School to Apprenticeship Programs Update .....	6
Running Start for the Trades Symposium .....	6
Snohomish County Construction Carnival.....	7
Habitat Women Build.....	8

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

Since there is significant concern about the construction industry's reaction to the economic upheaval that's going on around the country, I thought I'd take this opportunity to include some recent economic data about the construction industry in Washington State.

According to the Employment Security Department (ESD), Washington's unemployment rate was 4.7% (seasonally adjusted) in April, making it the nineteenth straight month in a row where the state rate held below 5%. This compares favorably to the national average, which rose from 5% in April to 5.5% in May 2008.

In Washington, construction jobs were at 206,900 in April 2008, down -0.4% from March 2008, but up 0.3% from April 2007. Nationally, overall job growth for the past year was 0.3%.

Regional ESD analysts report different employment conditions for the construction industry throughout the state. April 2008 data indicates that Bellingham, Seattle, and the Tri-Cities area have gained construction jobs from a year ago. Spokane showed a slight gain in jobs, balancing out a residential construction slowdown with increased commercial construction. Walla Walla is holding steady with little net job movement between 2007 and 2008. Less fortunate regions include Olympia, Tacoma, Wenatchee, Yakima, Longview, Kitsap, and Skagit – all are experiencing decreased construction job availability. To read more about area labor summaries, visit <http://www.workforceexplorer.com/article.asp?ARTICLEID=4758>.

On the residential side, NAHB reports that new construction single family permits for April 2008 were down 40% statewide in Washington compared to a year ago. Worst hit were Spokane and Bellingham, with 51% and 50% decreases, respectively. Multi-family permits were down 22% statewide. These numbers represent a middle-of-the-road position nationally, falling between Yuba City, California's 88% decrease, and Grand Forks, North Dakota's 64% increase in single family permits. To compare permit rates for cities and regions throughout the country, visit [http://www.nahb.org/fileUpload\\_details.aspx?contentID=55104](http://www.nahb.org/fileUpload_details.aspx?contentID=55104).

According to Employment Security Commissioner, Karen Lee, "Our economy has slowed, but it's still healthier than many other parts of the country."

As always, please remember that we rely on our readers to keep us informed about what's happening around the state. We encourage you to submit information or write articles for this newsletter. If you have story ideas, please contact Julia Cordero at [jcordero@rtc.edu](mailto:jcordero@rtc.edu).

~ Julia Cordero



## UPCOMING EVENTS

*For links and more information about any of these events, please visit the CCE website.*

### **Saturday Woodworkers Market**

Saturday, June 7, 2008

Seattle Central Community College, 2310 South Lane Street, Seattle (1 block south of 23rd and Jackson)

For more information, contact Valerie at [valerie.paquin@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.paquin@gmail.com). See the event flyer at [www.rtc.edu/CCE/Events/SCCC Sat Market June 2008.pdf](http://www.rtc.edu/CCE/Events/SCCC_Sat_Market_June_2008.pdf)

### **Pierce County Veterans Job Fair**

June 18, 2008

AMVETS, 5717 South Tyler, Tacoma

Help celebrate Hire-A-Veteran-First month by becoming an exhibitor at this event. The primary audience for the event is veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan. The job fair will serve veterans throughout Pierce, Thurston, Kitsap, and King Counties. Register online at [www.piercecountyvets.org/veterans/Job\\_Fair\\_Packages.aspx](http://www.piercecountyvets.org/veterans/Job_Fair_Packages.aspx)

### **Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council Quarterly Meeting**

July 17 & 18, 2008

Starts at 9:00am both days, Vancouver, WA

For meeting information and agendas, please visit [www.lni.wa.gov/Main/ContactInfo/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship.asp](http://www.lni.wa.gov/Main/ContactInfo/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship.asp) or [www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/WSATC/MinutesAgendas/default.asp](http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/WSATC/MinutesAgendas/default.asp). You may also e-mail Michael Thurman at [thum235@lni.wa.gov](mailto:thum235@lni.wa.gov) or call (360) 902-5320.

### **Construction Week Pathway for High School Students**

July 19 through 26, 2008

Central Washington University Ellensburg, WA

Students work in competitive teams as "general contractors" vying to create the most competitive bid for an assigned building project. The program is designed to engage students in a hands-on, experiential learning opportunity. Students learn respect and tolerance for others while building leadership skills through teamwork and team-building activities. For more information visit [www.wbw.org/uploads/Student\\_app\\_2008.pdf](http://www.wbw.org/uploads/Student_app_2008.pdf), email [info@wbw.org](mailto:info@wbw.org) or call (800) 686-6442.

**Special Note:** The organizers of Construction Week need your help -- the program needs construction company advisors to participate in the week-long program. If you or your company is interested in volunteering for this rewarding and essential role, please contact Steve Hyer by email at [Steve@wbw.org](mailto:Steve@wbw.org) or by phone at 253-815-6900. The program is also seeking corporate sponsors for the program.

### **Save the Date: 57th Annual Governor's Industrial Safety & Health Conference**

September 24 and 25, 2008 Spokane Convention Center

For more information, visit [www.wagovconf.org](http://www.wagovconf.org) or call the conference hotline at 1-888-451-2004.

### **3rd Annual Career and College Fair**

October 8, 2008 Everett Event Center

For information or to reserve your space, contact Sam Samano at (425) 921-3419 or email [sam.samano@wdcsc.org](mailto:sam.samano@wdcsc.org)

### **Save the Date: Spokane Construction Career Days 2008**

October 1 and 2, 2008, Spokane County Fair and Expo Center 404 North Havana Street Spokane, WA 99202

For more information, contact Rick Jordan at (509) 324-6023 or Wayne Brokaw at (509) 535-0391.

### **Save the Date: King County Construction Career Days 2008**

October 8 and 9, 2008, 8:00am to 2:00pm, Enumclaw Expo Center, 45224 284th Street SE, Enumclaw, WA 98022

For additional information, contact Marvin Jenkins at (206) 587-4954 or Carolyn Wickliff at (206) 835-5740.

### **Save the Date: Pierce County's Pathways to Apprenticeship Event**

October 10, 2008, Bates Technical College, South Campus

This day-long event is designed to introduce teachers, parents, school administrators, and counselors to the career opportunities available to their students through the registered apprenticeship programs of Washington State. For more information, contact Kristi Grassman, Pierce County Construction Partnership Coordinator, at (253) 404-3983 or by email at [kgrassman@pic.tacoma.wa.us](mailto:kgrassman@pic.tacoma.wa.us)

## UPCOMING EVENTS *CONTINUED ...*

### **Save the Date: Seattle Vocational Institute Annual Fundraising Dinner -- "Journey to Success"**

October 11, 2008, Location: TBD

Honoring the journey level workers who got their start with its program, SVI is hosting its annual fundraising dinner. SVI is excited to have Van Jones, founder of Green for All ([www.greenforall.org](http://www.greenforall.org)), as its keynote speaker for this worthwhile cause. For information, contact Diane Davies at 206-587-4957 or by email at [ddavies@sccd.ctc.edu](mailto:ddavies@sccd.ctc.edu)

### **Save the Date: Maritime Seminar**

October 15 and 16, 2008 Tacoma, WA

Online registration will be available soon for this event, and registrations will also be available at the door. Contact the conference coordinator at (360) 902-5415 or by email [ssoto@wagovconf.org](mailto:ssoto@wagovconf.org). For additional event information, visit [www.wagovconf.org/maritime.htm](http://www.wagovconf.org/maritime.htm)

### **Save the Date: Pierce County's 1st Annual Construction Career Day**

November 6, 2008 For more information or to register, contact Kristi Grassman, Pierce County Construction Partnership Coordinator, at (253) 404-3983 or by email at [kgrassman@pic.tacoma.wa.us](mailto:kgrassman@pic.tacoma.wa.us).

### **National Ecobuild America Fall Conference**

December 8 to 11, 2008

Walter E. Washington Convention Center Washington, D.C.

This annual event goes beyond green to cover the breadth of green building, sustainable design, renewable energy, and environmental planning processes for commercial, industrial, institutional, and residential construction. For more information, visit [www.ecobuildamerica.com/fallhome.html](http://www.ecobuildamerica.com/fallhome.html)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### **Washington Award for Vocational Excellence (WAVE)**

Each year the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board recognizes and rewards students who excel in career and technical education. The award pays undergraduate educational tuition for two years.

Three WAVE recipients (two from high schools/skills centers and one from community/technical colleges) are chosen from each legislative district by a selection committee. Each high school or skill center may submit an application for one to four students depending on the total number of vocational program graduates. The number of applicants from a community or technical college is determined by the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges.

To be eligible for the award, a student must currently a state resident enrolled in a Washington state high school, skills center, or public community or technical college, and by June 30, 2008, will: (1) Graduate from high school having completed a minimum of 360 hours in a single, approved vocational program; or (2) be enrolled in a public community or technical college and complete at least one year (minimum of 360 hours) in an approved vocational program; and (3) not have been a previous WAVE recipient.

Students interested in applying for the 2009 award should talk to the school's vocational administrator, WAVE coordinator or counselor. Information packages are available. For more information and eligibility requirements, contact the Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board at 360-753-5680 or 360-753-5677 or email: [colbert@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:colbert@wtb.wa.gov) or [janderson@wtb.wa.gov](mailto:janderson@wtb.wa.gov).

### **Green Construction and Remodeling Classes are Now Online**

Bates Technical College has been offering a five-course series of Green Construction classes since March 2007, and it is now available online. The sequence is based on the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building Rating System, in addition to other green-related topics. Courses include an Introduction, Building Materials, Air Quality, Water Quality, and Marketing and Sales for Green Building.

Courses receive college credit, and students receive a certificate of training upon successful completion of the course. Classes each cost \$124 plus a textbook. For more information or to register, call 253-680-7300 or register online at [www.bates.ctc.edu/registration/reg.asp](http://www.bates.ctc.edu/registration/reg.asp).

## **NEWS IN BRIEF *CONTINUED ...***

### **Governor's 2008 Economic and Workforce Development Conference**

On September 3 and 4, the Governor's 2008 Economic and Workforce Development Conference will take place at the Lynnwood Convention Center. This year's focus will be "The Next Washington: Growing Jobs and Income in a Global Economy." The fall conference will bring workforce and economic development partners together to assess how to use public investment in infrastructure to promote the best economic future for Washington. In addition, awards will be given for Workforce Best Practices, recognizing innovation and excellence. Nominations are due by July 1, 2008. All award nominations must be received by 4:00p.m. on July 1, 2008. Email nominations, questions and any requests for technical assistance to [apriit@cted.wa.gov](mailto:apriit@cted.wa.gov)

Conference, program information and registration will be available July 1, 2008. For more information on the event and award nomination requirements visit [www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/economy/conference/](http://www.governor.wa.gov/priorities/economy/conference/).

### **King County Awarded 2008 Brownfields Grant**

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

The EPA has selected King County to receive a \$200,000 job training grant. The county plans to train a minimum of 72 students, place at least 60 graduates in environmental jobs, and track graduates for one year. The training program will provide 238 hours of classroom and hands-on instruction, including certifications in HAZWOPER, industrial spill response and hygiene, and lead and asbestos abatement training. Primary trainers will be Cole and Associates and TCB Industrial. Students will be recruited from low-income county residents, with an emphasis on residents living in or near the Duwamish-Tukwila Manufacturing Industrial Center. King County will work with labor unions, construction companies, environmental cleanup companies, and government agencies to place graduates in environmental jobs.

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, Brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: [www.epa.gov/brownfields](http://www.epa.gov/brownfields).

### **Spokane WorkSource Center is the Best in the Nation**

*Excerpted from Washington State Employment Security Department 5/9/08 News Release*

The Spokane WorkSource center has been selected as the best one-stop career-service center in the United States – out of more than 1,800 centers nationwide. The award was bestowed on June 9 by the International Association of Workforce Professionals (IAWP) at its conference in Virginia. This is the seventh year for the award.

"The Spokane WorkSource center does a superb job of providing universal access, customer choice and outstanding service in a one-stop setting," said Washington state IAWP chapter president Steve Ruggles. "This is the fifth time a Washington WorkSource has brought this award home, and we're very proud."

IAWP is a professional-development association composed of more than 13,000 public- and private-sector employees who provide workforce development services.

"We already knew that the Spokane WorkSource team was top-notch at helping job-seekers and employers with their employment needs," said Employment Security Commissioner Karen Lee. "Being named the best in the country is exciting and well-deserved."

WorkSource is a partnership of government agencies, community colleges and non-profits that offer employment services for job seekers and businesses.

**NEWS IN BRIEF CONTINUED ...**

**Regional Training Center at Satsop**

*By Cheryl Fambles, Pacific Mountain Workforce Consortium*

On May 13 an enthusiastic group of educators, apprenticeship coordinators and a variety of professionals from the skilled trades gathered at the Satsop Development Park ([www.Satsop.com](http://www.Satsop.com)) to think about how the former WPPSS (Washington Public Power Supply System) towers and surrounding campus could be home to a regional training center for pre-apprenticeship and other related programs. Planning has only just begun, but the \$660 million asset offers a real learning laboratory for students seeking to get into the skilled trades. This effort is being helped along by the recently awarded US Dept of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) grant that will work with labor, business and education to design programs that increase the number of individuals entering the skilled trades. For more information about the training center or WIRED contact Cheryl B. Fambles, WIRED Director 360.570.6957 or [cfambles@pacificmountainworksource.org](mailto:cfambles@pacificmountainworksource.org)



View of Satsop Development Park.

**Pathways to Apprenticeship Event Recap**



Attendees at the Pathways Welcome Session.

On March 26, 2008 the Construction Center of Excellence hosted a Pathways to Apprenticeship event at the Seattle Area Pipe Trades Education Center in Renton. There was an overwhelmingly positive response from everyone involved. Over one hundred participants represented a diverse geographic range across the state, from Omak to Mt Adams school district, to North Olympic Peninsula and Tumwater. Of these participants, there were 44 instructors, 47 career and/or guidance counselors, as well as a number of CTE directors, school administrators, and representatives from private organizations.

A wide range of topics were presented in morning breakout sessions, including “Connecting K12 students to Construction Careers,” “Apprenticeship as a Career Pathway” and “Apprenticeship 101.” In the afternoon, participants were taken on tours of local apprenticeship training facilities. Participants left the day with a resource binder packed with information about apprenticeship to take back and share with coworkers and students at their home schools.

In case you missed this great event in Renton, another Pathways event is planned for October 10 at Bates Technical College, South Campus. For more information, contact Kristi Grassman, Pierce County Construction Partnership Coordinator, at (253) 404-3983 or by email at [kgrassman@pic.tacoma.wa.us](mailto:kgrassman@pic.tacoma.wa.us).

The Construction Center of Excellence plans to host additional Pathways events throughout Washington in the coming years. Contact Shana Hunter at [shunter@rtc.edu](mailto:shunter@rtc.edu) or call 425-235-2352 ext. 2217 for more information.



Skills Center student “Ambassadors” add enthusiasm and energy to the event.

**NEWS IN DEPTH**

**Summer Construction Week for High School Students Needs Industry Advisor Volunteers**

The summer Construction program is a week-long opportunity for high school students from across the state to learn about teamwork, leadership, and setting real-life goals. The program is run by Washington Business Week ([www.wbw.org](http://www.wbw.org)) and will be held from July 20 to 26 at Central Washington University in Ellensburg. Students are fully immersed in the college environment – they stay on campus and live in the dorms during the program.

During the week, students become “General Contractors” and vie for the most competitive bid to build a new art center and learn how this rapidly growing industry offers some of the highest paid professions in the state. Groups of 10-12 students are paired with an industry mentor.

## **NEWS IN DEPTH *CONTINUED* ...**

WBW is actively recruiting volunteer Company Advisors to match their increased enrollment of students. So far student enrollment is about 15% ahead of last year's numbers, which means more volunteer advisors are needed to keep student/advisor ratios optimal.

Being a Company Advisor for the Construction program is a full week commitment of hard work. In return it is one of the best hands-on professional opportunities available for employees. In addition, the program develops tomorrow's construction workforce and helps prepare the state's youth to meet the needs of the industry.

Stephen Hyer, Executive Director of Washington Business Week, is available to answer any questions employers or employees may have about this volunteer opportunity. He encourages industry professionals to step forward and take the challenge of mentoring high school students this summer. Past participants have termed the experience as fun, exciting and very rewarding.

Stephen can be reached at 253-815-6900 or by email at [steve@wbw.org](mailto:steve@wbw.org) for more information.

### **School to Apprenticeship Programs: Get Electrified, Frame Your Future, & Cutting Edge Technologies**

*By Trudy Poole, Tacoma Pierce County Employment & Training Consortium*

The construction industry expects to lose significant talent over the next five to ten years due to retirement of its workforce. In anticipation of this shortage of workers, the industry has focused its efforts on attracting and growing a younger workforce. In 2002, the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) and the SW WA J.A.T.C. initiated an electrical pre-apprenticeship program in partnership with the Pierce County Workforce Development Council to identify and develop young talent from Pierce County high schools.

Selected high school students are hired by NECA businesses as electrician's helpers during the summer and senior year, earning \$8.50 and \$8.75 respectively. During their participation, these electrician helpers receive occupation specific training as well as employability skills training both on the job and in a classroom setting. After successful graduation from high school, these helpers are offered full-time employment at \$9.00 per hour. At this time, they apply to the electrical apprenticeship program and are given special consideration for entry. Once accepted, they follow the electrical apprenticeship training tracks, earning \$10.00 to \$15.00 per hour.

To date, twenty six students have completed The School to Apprenticeship Programs, and eight students have had the opportunity to enter the electrical apprenticeship training program with the SW WA Electrical J.A.T.C. A fifth group of students began their on-the-job and classroom training in June 2006.

Based on the success of this program model, labor and industry partners from other trades and counties have expressed interest in replicating the program. In 2005, the carpentry version, Frame Your Future, became available for students. After successful graduation from high school, these helpers are offered full-time employment at \$19.00 per hour. At this time, they apply to the carpentry apprenticeship program and are given special consideration for entry. Once accepted, they follow the carpentry apprenticeship training tracks, earning \$19.00 to \$25.00 per hour.

Beginning in January, students were recruited for both Get Electrified and the Frame Your Future, and twelve students were selected to participate. In 2006, the sheet metal/HVAC version, Cutting Edge Technologies, became available for students. The 2008-2009 participant and alternative students chosen for these programs are: Jordon Roy, Derek Tyndall, Grant Duchesne, Austin Aldrich, McKenzie Wins, William Brauneis, Alex Whitish, Frank Cody, Joe Russell, Robert Woodmark, Samuel Steffensen, and Trevor McGrath.

Partners are meeting to plan for replication in the other trades, including painters and ironworkers, which may join The School to Apprenticeship Programs as soon as 2009. For more information, contact Trudy Poole at 253.552.2542.

### **Running Start for the Trades Symposium**

*By Jody Robbins, Dept of Labor & Industries*

For the second consecutive year, educators from across the state came together to share their best practices for connecting K-12 students with apprenticeship opportunities in the building and construction trades. The second annual Running Start for the Trades (RSTT) symposium took place in a packed conference room at the Puget Sound Skills Center on May 8,

## NEWS IN DEPTH *CONTINUED* ...

2008. Over 50 participating educators were treated to presentations by their peers highlighting best practices for pre-apprenticeship programs and outreach efforts. While the focus was on how school districts are using the RSST incentive and pilot grant awards to build pre-apprenticeship connections for their students, the approaches varied as widely as the geographic diversity of the participants.

Lisa White from Spokane schools emphasized the importance of active partners over funding concerns: where there is a will - there is a way! Spokane is a leader for tying pre-apprenticeship training in the high school to direct entry slots for students into registered apprenticeship programs. Spokane has tied the school districts capital projects to guaranteed apprenticeship entry slots for limited numbers of students. Seattle Public Schools representative, Nan Johnson, spoke of a similar program for their students and trouble filling all of the direct entry apprentice slots available!

Also highlighted at the symposium were pre-apprenticeship programs through New Market Vocational Skills Center, Edmonds School District, Whatcom Tech Prep Consortium, and the Puget Sound Skills Center. In addition to the school district programs on display, Mary Miller from the Department of Labor and Industries, Employment Standards division delivered a lunch hour talk on the rules for engaging teenagers in work-based learning programs. Mary reminded everyone of the importance for properly preparing young people for entrance into the world of construction work.



Terry Bergeson, Superintendent of Public Instruction, addresses symposium attendees.

The sponsors for the event included the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction, the Department of Labor and Industries, Puget Sound Skills Center and the Construction Center of Excellence at Renton Technical College. Planning is already underway for the third annual Running Start for the Trades symposium to be hosted by the Spokane Schools. The symposium is simply a vehicle to highlight the truly innovative ways that schools throughout the state are establishing clear, articulated pathways for high school students to access registered apprenticeships upon graduation.

## Second Annual Construction Carnival bigger and better than ever!

By Heather Villars, Workforce Development Council Snohomish County

Workforce Development Council Snohomish County and the Construction Careers Partnership were proud to host the second annual Construction Carnival on May 7, 2008 at the Sno-Isle TECH Skill Center in Everett, WA.



A student tries his hand at one of the carnival activities.

Over 300 students attended from schools across Snohomish County. Students were welcomed with a safety lesson from Washington State Department of Labor and Industry staff and then sent in small groups to stations representing over twenty construction careers, apprenticeships, and training pathways—from the Masonry Trades and the Master Builders to Operating Engineers and Electricians.

Students had the opportunity to operate a crane simulator, build a sheet metal tool tray, drive a nail gun, use a radial saw, cut glass, lay tile and brick, and learn about the myriad apprenticeship and training opportunities that lead to high-demand, high-wage careers in the construction and building trades.

Student feedback overwhelmingly pointed to the carnival having "rocked," with many comments citing the hands-on activities the best of the day. This feeling was echoed by many teachers who accompanied their students to the carnival.

"Many students aren't aware of the vast array of apprenticeship opportunities available to them right out of high school," explains Sam Samano of Workforce Development Council Snohomish County. "For a lot of students, earning a high wage while gaining skills in a competitive field is a very appealing option, one they don't often hear about from their high school counselors."

Terry Manhardt, a teacher from Eisenhower Middle School, brought twenty-six eighth graders to the Carnival and reported:

*"Not only did the students enjoy using their hands, but they were impressed with the knowledge and*

## NEWS IN DEPTH CONTINUED ...

*professionalism of the representatives from the various trade unions. Our students didn't just cut glass, fire nail guns, or lay tile. They were shown how to do each task correctly, reinforcing the importance of quality work. I saw them eager to do a job well.*

*I was impressed by how approachable the construction representatives were and how comfortably they interacted with the students. I saw our students eagerly asking questions. One young lady came running up to me and exclaimed: "Mrs. Manhardt, I'm learning so much and having fun!" A few of our young men work on construction projects at home but hadn't realized until they attended the carnival that there are apprenticeship programs available after graduation where they can actually learn while they work."*



A group of students build a brick wall during one of the hands-on activities.

Energizing youth about construction careers is an important initiative in Snohomish County as workforce demands outnumber skilled workers and students often enter, and exit, college without a clear career path.

Other event sponsors included the Snohomish County Construction Careers Partnership, Western Washington Sheet Metal JATC, The Painters and Allied Trades, Sno-Isle TECH Skill Center, Edmonds Community College Construction Training Program, WorkSource Snohomish County, Master Builder's Career Connection, Edmonds Community College, Habitat for Humanity, Brightwater Treatment Facility, and Star Rentals.

Additional exhibitors included Northwest Washington Electrical Industry JATC, Northwest Laborers Employee Training, United Associations of Journeymen, Western Washington Masonry Trades, Pacific Northwest Ironworkers, Operating Engineers Regional Training, Boilermaker's Apprenticeship Program, Construction Industry Training Council, IEC of Washington, Washington State Department of Labor and Industry, Seattle Area Roofers Apprenticeship Program, Heat and Frost Allied Workers JATC, and more.

Exhibitor fees covered the cost of providing, in typical carnival fashion, a hamburger and a slice of watermelon for each student.

With the palpable excitement each journeyman brought about his/her industry, they provided the students with a brief glimpse of the bright future they could achieve in the building trades.

## Habitat Women Build – They Had a Dream

*By Sue Hart, Building Beyond the Walls*

On Saturday May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 East King County Habitat for Humanity hosted a one day Women Build at Snoqualmie Ridge. Planning started almost a year ago with Julia Cordero, Executive Director of the Construction Center of Excellence, Cathy Feole, Executive Director of Master Builders Career Connections and Sue Z. Hart, Project Coordinator for Building Beyond the Walls (a volunteer construction training program). A short time later National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) members Judy Jewell, Darylene Dennon and Gwen Hart joined the team.



Women Build Volunteers frame a wall.

The next step was to find a Habitat affiliate who would be able and willing to work with this enthusiastic team. In March of this year Lowes announced a special promotion giving any affiliate \$5,000 who held a Women Build during the week before Mother's Day. East King County Habitat for Humanity jumped on the opportunity, working long hours to ensure foundations were poured and the site ready. Volunteers were scheduled to work on two homes in the fifty-home Snoqualmie Ridge Habitat development, which is the largest of its kind in the Northwest.

What made this Women Build unique was the commitment to give women the skills in advance that they would need for the day of the actual build. Master Builders Career Connections hired Building Beyond the Walls to develop a one day training to prepare volunteers to build on the day of the event. Project Coordinator Hart knows that the value of advance training is more than just providing participants with skills. "It creates cohesiveness amongst strangers to produce a sense of community and a common purpose." Hart said, "It's a big part of what made the day so successful, second only to the heart of the

## NEWS IN DEPTH *CONTINUED* ...

volunteers.”

Despite snow and hail on her day of training, volunteer Rosanna Hall said, “I really appreciated the fact that power tools (saws, specifically) were discussed and we were trained on them. Prior to that, I was scared of them, mostly from lack of knowledge. On the day of the build, it was necessary for me to use one of the saws. The training made me capable of doing that, without being scared or unsafe in the process. The training is a necessity; the skills training helped me be a more efficient volunteer on the day of the build.” Her words were echoed by many other participants.

Women Build is not meant to exclude men but to empower and include women by

providing a safe environment for them to learn. While men were on site, they focused on supporting and assisting the women. Not only did the event empower mothers and grandmothers to build, but it also encouraged high school girls to join in as a way to get exposure to volunteering and to the construction industry. The event had ten incredible high school girls participate as volunteers.



Through the sound of pounding hammers and buzzing saws there was constant chatter on the jobsite during the day of the event. Weaved within the words was a special connection that develops when people of all walks of life come together for a purpose bigger than themselves. From Marysville to Tacoma, ages 16 to “it’s not polite to ask”, mothers and daughters jumped at the opportunity to help a Habitat family build a home. Maybe we can’t solve all the problems of the world but on this day we helped a family move a little closer to their

dream of having a home to call their own and with the determination of this amazing team, the rest of the problems of the world are made a little smaller.

