

CONSTRUCTION CONNECTIONS

Volume 2, Number 3

Note from the Director

Headlines in newspapers around the Puget Sound say it all: this summer is going to be the biggest construction season ever. Much of the activity is concentrated around or on major arterials, including Interstate 5 and Interstate 405, and involves public works and commercial projects. The impact of this growth is tremendous for our state; it will mean long-term, local construction demand will outpace supply, especially if we cannot attract and retain top talent for our industry.

However, the offset benefits are just as important – as we improve and expand our infrastructure, firms that are ready to locate in Washington will see the Pacific Northwest as a truly desirable place to live and do business. It is exciting to learn and watch how this complex industry responds to the state's economy – and rewarding to contribute to solutions that can close skill gaps or attract talent to construction.

For this reason, it is with regret that I tell our friends I am leaving the Construction Center of Excellence at the end of June. Happily, my family is growing and the “new addition” to our house will keep me busy for the next year. The collaborative work among our partners statewide will continue. The primary contact for the CCE after June will be Gay Kiesling.

~ Heather Winfrey

Not Too Late to Register for the Construction Math Institute, June 25 - 29

There is still some space open for K-12 math and CTE teachers and career counselors to join us for the Construction Math Institute, June 25 -29, 2007. **This is a FREE event, and teachers can earn up to 30 clock hours!** Attendees will visit colleges, apprenticeships and major construction projects in Pierce and South King Counties, gaining fun, hands-on math tools and valuable resources for promoting career options in this diverse and exciting industry.

The Institute is co-sponsored with the Associated General Contractors of Washington Education Foundation, and funded through a capacity grant from the Transition Math Project and State Board for Community and Technical Colleges. Each participant will receive a free copy of the “Construction Math Toolbox,” refreshments, limited local transportation to site visits. *Sorry, we cannot reimburse you for travel or per diem if coming to an institute out-of-area.*

Registration is easy – go to <http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/ComingEvents> (mid-page) for details.

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New Market's K12 Construction Building Trades "Center of Excellence" Program Launches website

Submitted by Matt Gordon, New Market Vocational Skills Center

As part of their three-year Running Start for the Trades demonstration grant, New Market Vocational Skills Center has launched an interactive website called the "K12 Construction Trades Center of Excellence." This wonderful site was designed by New Market student Tim Parbon, and features a full program sequence and exercises designed by New Market Construction Technologies Instructor Matt Gordon. The site also incorporates Model Apprenticeship Instruction Program videos, training blocks and evaluations, which are the standards designed by the United Brotherhood of Carpenters.

Apprenticeship partners who have agreements with New Market for enhanced standing and direct entry options for graduates can also be viewed online. This is a valuable addition for other projects developing school-to-apprenticeship paths for students, including the Running Start for the Trades grants.

You can visit this valuable resource at <http://app.nmvsc.com/>.

Running Start for the Trades Symposium Brings Resources to Projects Statewide

The Career Technical Education Department of the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction and the Apprenticeship Division of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries joined forces with the CCE and New Market Skills Center to host the "Running Start for the Trades Symposium" at New Market on May 9.

This event was especially planned for teams of Running Start for the Trades grant recipients to gain safety and construction math curricula, as well as community and workforce resources, which can be incorporated into their projects.

Running Start for the Trades began as a request to the Legislature from Governor Gregoire in 2005, asking the state to expand school-to-apprenticeship opportunities for young people who are graduating from high school. Since then, New Market, North Shore School District, South Seattle Community College, and Seattle Vocational Institute all received three year demonstration grants to continue their leadership in pre-apprenticeship programs. Eight incentive grants have been awarded to school districts to develop articulations with local apprenticeships.

Highlighting the event were nine soon-to-be graduates of New Market's Construction Trades program.



These young men were recently offered direct entry into the NW Carpenters, with opportunities for enhanced entry with the Electricians. Serving as Event Ambassadors, each co-presented during afternoon sessions, and one young man, Jonathan Villanueva, was a co-keynote speaker with Liz Smith, Apprenticeship Division Manager of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. On May 11, these young men were recognized by Governor Gregoire during a bill signing ceremony.

Pictured with Governor Christine Gregoire (seated) from left to right: Blake Edwards, Nick Graham, Matt Gordon (instructor), Tim Parbon, Andrew Gosselin, Parker Mayo, Isaiah Norby, Jonathan Villanueva, Aaron Lindseth, and Zach Hill.

Registration Still Available for the Boiler Operators Symposium on June 28 and 29

Renton Technical College is pleased to join forces again with Bates Technical College, and the Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust to co-host the second annual Washington State Boiler Operators Symposium, June 28 – 29 at Renton Technical College.

This event is designed for new and experienced boiler operators to meet the requirements for refresher certification, as approved by The Steam Certification Board of Tacoma and The Steam Licensing Advisory Board of Seattle.

Advanced registration of \$95 includes lunch and refreshment breaks for both days – registration and program details are available at the Renton Technical College website homepage, www.RTC.edu.

Washington Women in Trades Hosts its 28th Annual Job Fair

The Washington Women in Trades was founded in 1978 for women working in trades to gather and share information. The organization sponsors its annual job fair at Fischer Pavilion in Seattle, targeting women of all ages who may not be familiar with the high paying jobs available in trades careers.

This year, the event was held on April 27 and featured a Trades Olympics contest. Dignitaries from the Port of Seattle and Seattle City Council Members Sally Clark and Jean Godden were also in attendance.

To find out more about this organization and its many activities, go to <http://www.wawomenintrades.com/>.

Math Conference at Clover Park a Huge Success

Submitted by Janet Holm, Clover Park Technical College

Clover Park Technical College (CPTC) hosted its second annual “Math to Careers” conference for 600 seventh and eighth grade students from the Bethel, Clover Park and Tacoma Districts at its Lakewood campus on May 8. Representatives from high demand industries were on hand to demonstrate the importance of math across career paths.

Students enjoyed campus-wide workshops, hands-on exercises, face-to-face interactions and small group activities with CPTC instructors and students. “This type of learning experience is a first for the Tacoma – Pierce County region,” said Janet Holm, coordinator for the Math to Careers Middle School Conference. “This gives young adults an opportunity to explore different professions while seeing first-hand how important math will play in their lives and future careers.”

Noted speaker Dr. Arthur Benjamin entertained students during a one-hour presentation called, “Mathemagics: The Art of Mental Calculation,” in which he explained his secrets for performing rapid mental calculations faster than a calculator.

The CCE joined the Associated General Contractors of Washington Education Foundation at the Clover Park event for its “If I Had a Hammer” project. Construction Math Toolboxes were distributed to the middle school teachers and career specialists at the event.

National Association for Women in Construction Offers Puget Sound Trades Chapter Scholarship

The National Association for Women in Construction (NAWIC) is offering a \$500 trades scholarship for young women entering or currently enrolled in a trades program or apprenticeship. The due date is fast approaching – May 20, 2007. The winner will be recognized at NAWIC’s Very Important People (VIP) dinner on June 18.

The scholarship application form is available at: <http://www.nawicpugetsound.org/scholarship/NAWIC%20Scholarship%202007.doc>. For questions, please contact Lucy Bodilly at 206.378.4176. Reservations for the VIP dinner are also available online at <http://www.nawicpugetsound.org/>.

Construction Workforce Development Resources Handbook Available Online and in Hard Copy!

The second edition of the CCE’s Resources Handbook is available now online at <http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/Resources>, and limited quantities have been printed.

This booklet lists contact information for Centers of Excellence, regional skill panels, community and technical colleges offering construction training, apprenticeships, and local and state workforce agencies. It is a comprehensive, one stop tool for anyone who partners with construction education.

To request a hard copy, please contact Judy Amico at 425.235.2352, extension 2217.

Spokane Getting Ready for Construction Career Days this October

Submitted by Lisa White, School District 81/Spokane

Spokane School District 81's Career and Technical Education Department is working with the Washington State Department of Transportation – Apprenticeship Division, the Associated General Contractors of Washington Spokane Office, and numerous local apprenticeships and agencies to host "Construction Career Days" October 4 and 5, 2007 at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds. A similar event will be hosted in Kennewick at the Tri-Tech Skills Center on October 16.

This event targets juniors and seniors with hands-on experiences and direct contact to a range of trades professions. Contact Wayne Brokaw with the Spokane AGC office at 509.535.0391 to get involved with this fantastic event, or email wayne@northwestagc.net

Port Jobs' Financial Tools for the Trades Available for Online Orders

Submitted by Stephanie Kellner, Office of PortJobs

Financial Tools for the Trades: "A Survival Guide for Apprentices"

Every apprentice learns how to use the tools of his or her trade. But there hasn't been an easy way to teach apprentices how to build a solid financial future – until now. Port Jobs' popular *Financial Survival Guide for Apprentices* helps apprentices prepare for life in the trades.

"The *Survival Guide* opens every apprentice's eyes to the reality of being off work due to injury, school or layoffs and gives them the tools to deal with those setbacks," says Lee Newgent, Seattle/King County Building and Construction Trades Council.

Topics include:

- ◆ Being prepared for lay-offs
- ◆ Building an emergency fund
- ◆ Developing a spending plan
- ◆ Understanding credit reporting
- ◆ Knowing how much credit really costs
- ◆ Dealing with debt
- ◆ Saving for the future

For a limited time, you can pre-order copies of the Survival Guide at a cost of \$4 each (plus sales tax, shipping and handling). Email Port Jobs (portjobs@portseattle.org) to be notified when the pre-order period begins and for details on how to order.

Don't miss this opportunity to put this important tool in the hands of every apprentice in your program! Port Jobs is a non-profit organization working to increase access to living wage jobs for all residents of the Greater Seattle area. For more information, visit www.portjobs.org.

Don't Miss It! Snohomish Construction Carnival Set for June 14

Submitted by Sam Samano, Snohomish County Workforce Development Council

On June 14th, the Naval Station Everett Support Complex at Smokey Point will be transformed into a Construction Carnival, complete with hands-on activities for people interested in learning more about the construction trades. Attendees will have the opportunity to ride a boom lift, drive a crane simulator, frame a house, wield a cutting torch, and much more!

Additionally, representatives, including many journeymen, from the building trades and local apprenticeship programs will be on-site answering questions and conducting demonstrations. Join ironworkers, cement masons, millwrights, plasterers, pipe fitters, electricians, carpenters, sprinkler fitters, boiler makers, and more for this exciting day!

This event is being sponsored by the Snohomish County Workforce Development Council and its Construction Skill Panel, the Construction Careers Partnership. For more information contact Sam Samano at (425) 921-3419 or by email at lsamano@snocowdc.org, or visit <http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/ComingEvents/snohomish%20county%20job%20fair%20poster.pdf>

AGCEF Awards \$36,000 in Scholarships to Local Schools and Students

Submitted by Leanne Liddicoat, Associated General Contractors of Washington Education Foundation

Workforce Development is a catch phrase used by many with a variety of definitions. At the Foundation, we include in our definition student and teacher outreach, college scholarships, and continuing education. Under this broad description, one of our strategic priorities is to expand construction programs in high schools. At one time, this seemed impossible, but we have seen tremendous interest from school districts and contractors to bring construction to their local students.

With help from the Foundation in the last year, Stanton High School Construction Academy in Yakima started a new program in December 2006; Whatcom Tech Prep Consortium will begin a program in fall 2007; South Kitsap will add programs at the junior high level; and Lynden High School will expand their existing program. This year, the Associated General Contractors of Washington Education Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$36,000 to these schools and students:

- ◆ ACES Summer Weekend Experience for Women,
- ◆ CWU/UW/WSU student participation at the annual Reno estimating competition,
- ◆ new Whatcom Tech Prep Consortium,
- ◆ Seattle Vocational Institute,
- ◆ Washington Construction Week,
- ◆ Lynden High School,
- ◆ South Kitsap School District,
- ◆ Napavine High School,
- ◆ Mount Si High School,
- ◆ Stanton High School Construction Academy.

To find out how the AGCEF can support construction education in your school, contact Derek Sparks at dsparks@agcwa.com.

Bates and Foss Waterway Seaport to Build Replica of the Foss Skiff

Submitted by Mary Coffee, Bates Technical College

An educational partnership between Bates Technical College and Foss Waterway Seaport will provide wooden boat enthusiasts an opportunity to help build a replica of a historic lapstrake Foss Skiff. When complete, the custom-built craft will be added to the inventory of Tacoma's Working Waterfront Maritime Museum as a livery (rental) boat. The Foss Waterway Seaport is a \$21.5 million redevelopment project that will create the most comprehensive maritime education and activity center on the west coast. Expansion and enhancement of the Waterfront Maritime Museum is a top priority of the Foss Waterway Seaport project.

About the Foss Skiff Series

On Monday and Wednesday evenings beginning April 9 and continuing through May 30, Bates Technical College will offer a 56-hour extended learning series in traditional wooden boat building at the college's south campus boat shop. Participants may register for one or all six courses of the series:

- ◆ Interpreting Line Drawings
- ◆ Taking the Lines Off the Foss Skiff
- ◆ Laying Down the Lines to Define and Refine
- ◆ Drawing the Lines of Boats
- ◆ Construction Drawing – Picking Up the Patterns
- ◆ Setting Up to Build the Foss Skiff

The series will continue in the fall 2007, concluding with the final construction of the craft. For those who love working with timber and who enjoy detailed and precise work, this is a unique learning opportunity, sharing in the creation of a custom built wooden boat destined for Tacoma's Waterfront Museum. For more information on the *Building the Foss Skiff* series, contact instructor Chuck Graydon at 253.680.7439 or 253.225.5515.

Grants for Youth Promoting Dropout Prevention Among Latinos Now Available

Submitted by Alicia Luna, Office of the Washington State Commissioner for Hispanic Affairs

Youth Venture, an international group that develops and supports youth-led programs and organizations, has partnered with MTV Tr3's Voices campaign and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to launch Tu Voz My Venture. This initiative will support at least 50 teams of young people ages 13- 20 who create Ventures that help Latino students graduate from high school and prepare for college or work. The top five teams will be awarded a \$5,000 team scholarship, and one of those winning teams will be featured in a news segment on MTV!

For more information, go to: <http://www.genv.net/en-us/tuvoz>

Public/Private Ventures Hosting Outcomes Workshop in Seattle on June 14

Working Ventures, an initiative of Public/Private Ventures (P/PV), is hosting a day-long workshop in Seattle on June 14, 2007 called, "Becoming Outcomes-Driven: Strategies for Using Outcomes Data to Improve Performance." Held in coordination with the P/PV Performance Benchmarking Project, participants will learn how to identify key organization-wide performance indicators, target milestones, and use data to examine factors that influence performance.

This workshop builds on their recent report, "Good Stories Aren't Enough: Becoming Outcomes Driven in Workforce Development." More information and online registration for the Seattle workshop are available at: http://workingventures.org/ppv/working_ventures/working_ventures_workshops.asp?section_id=6&event_id=46

Northwest Education Loan Association Offers Take Aim Scholarships

Forwarded from Debbie Solomon, Renton Technical College

The Northwest Education Loan Association (NELA) is offering scholarships to community and technical college students with financial need in order to complete an associate degree, or to transfer to a four-year college or university.

There are two types of scholarships available:

Incentive scholarships – NELA will award up to 70 scholarships at \$500 to currently enrolled students for school year 2007 -2008 to be able to complete a transferable associate degree.

Take Aim Transfer Scholarships – NELA will award up to 70 scholarships at \$2000 to currently enrolled community or technical college students who plan to complete their transferable degree by fall 2007, and enroll in a Washington State four-year college or university during school year 2007 -2008.

For more information contact the NELA Center for Student Success at 877.635.2669.

Youth Building Tacoma Redesigns Program

Submitted by Rebecca Harrison, Pierce County Construction Partnership

Youth Building Tacoma (YBT) has undergone an exciting redesign to expand their training to industries and apprentice-able trades beyond the construction industry. YBT will still offer training to individuals who are interested in construction trades.

The new program focus will prepare workers for the expected and needed workplace readiness skills and behaviors employers say are critical. It will do so through expanding classroom trainings and internships.

Interested students should contact Mardee Ropella at mropella@pic.tacoma.wa.us or Diane Iverson diverson@pic.tacoma.wa.us to meet the summer application deadline of May 31, 2007. YBT is looking for mentors, too – please contact program staff with questions.

Commercial Building and Industrial Engineering Programs Open House on May 23

Please join Renton Technical College and the Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust on Wednesday, May 23, 2007 for an open house from 9:00am to 5:00pm at the Stationary Engineers Training Center, 18 "E" Street, Auburn. This open house will feature program exhibits and hands-on demonstrations, and refreshments are provided.

This is a fabulous opportunity to explore careers and meet with employers and faculty connected to our Commercial Building and Industrial Engineering Programs. For more information, please call 253.351.0567.

Upcoming Events

**Master Builders Education Foundation
Student Competition and Career Fair**

May 18, 2007

MBA Housing Center, Bellevue WA

**Center for IT Excellence (CITE)
2007 IT Futures Education Summit:
"Inspiring Faculty for Tomorrow"**

May 18, 2007

Microsoft Conference Center, Redmond WA

**Welding Rodeo 2007
6th Annual Welded Sculpture Competition**

May 18 and 19, 2007

Bellingham Technical College

**Salishan Hope VI
Construction Project Site Tour**

May 22, 2007

Salishan Family Investment Center, Tacoma, WA

Engineering Symposium on Careers in Engineering

May 23, 2007

Walla Walla Community College

Commercial Building and Industrial Engineering Programs OPEN HOUSE

May 23, 2007

Stationary Engineers Training Center, Auburn WA

Women In Trades Workshop

May 31, 2007

South Puget Sound Community College

Washington State I-Best Symposium

June 1, 2007

Highline Community College, Des Moines WA

5th Annual Career Clusters Institute

June 11 - 13, 2007

Phoenix, Arizona

Snohomish County Construction Carnival

June 14, 2007

Naval Station Everett Support Complex at Smokey Point

2007 Career Pathways Institute

June 18 - 19, 2007

Doubletree Hotel, Spokane Center, Spokane WA

Washington State Boiler Operators Symposium 2007

June 28 and 29, 2007

Renton Technical College

**Aviation, Construction, Engineering and Safety
Young Women Academy (ACE)**

July 6 - 8, 2007

Central Washington University, Ellensburg, WA

Upcoming events cont.....

Workforce Innovations 2007

July 16 - 18, 2007
Kansas City, Missouri

WA-ACTE Summer Conference

August 12 - 15, 2007
Yakima, WA

Did you know...

...the Transition Math Project hosts discussion boards and virtual presentations on its regional learning communities? Contact Chris Gildner at cgildner@highline.edu for more information.

...the Center for Excellence in Education at Green River is hosting an I-BEST Symposium on June 1? Registration details are available at <http://www.careersined.org/>

...the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges has an online video showing how the two-year college system is responding to the needs of low income adults and local businesses? Go to: <http://www.sbctc.ctc.edu/>

...Cal Pygott, who won the KCTS Golden Apple Award for his Bothell High School Construction Academy, was featured in a National Center for Construction Education Research article?

There is a website called "Seattle Construction News" that publishes regional industry news in the Pacific Northwest and Canada? Go to: <http://www.seattleconstructionnews.com/>

...The Building for A Lifetime campaign with KIRO Television and KIRO Online is going strong? Check out their comprehensive website at: <http://www.kirotv.com/sponsors/11250917/detail.html>

...The Washington State Building and Construction Trades Council's website has a terrific list of apprenticeship descriptions to help people decide what trade may make the best career choice for them? Go to: http://wabuildingtrades.unionactive.com/index.cfm?zone=/unionactive/view_page.cfm&page=Job20Descriptions

The Construction Center of Excellence Steering Committee

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