

# CONSTRUCTION CONNECTIONS

Volume 1, Number 2

## Register before it's too late !!! Washington State Construction Workforce Conference at Renton Technical College

**HAVE YOU REGISTERED YET** for the Washington State Construction Workforce Conference? Better hurry – space is filling quickly for our FREE signature event...and here's why:

### Top notch industry, labor and education speakers:

**Marvin Doster** – Capital Restoration Project Manager, Mortenson and Company

**Darlene Septelka** – Facilities Construction Manager, Brightwater Project

**Steve Nicholes** – Executive Vice President, MacDonald Miller Facility Solutions

**David Harrison** – Chair, Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board

**Judy Jewell** – CEO, Olympian Precast and President, Puget Sound Chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction

**Bill McSherry** – Economic Development Director, Puget Sound Regional Council

**The Honorable Uriel Iñiguez** – Commissioner, Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs

**Ed Prevatt** – Workforce Development Coordinator, National Center for Construction Education Research

**Stuart Simpson** – Energy Engineer, Department of General Administration Green Building/Engineering and Architectural Services Division

**Arne Reyier** – General Superintendent, Rushforth Construction

**Terry Tilton** – Assistant Executive Secretary, Washington State Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO

### Inside this issue:

Cutting Edge Workforce and Economic Development Topics	2
Excellence in Construction Education Awards	2
Governor Gregorie Requests Senate and House Introduce Joint Bills	3
Pierce College Offers New Construction Management Degree	3
Spotlight On: The Washington Welding Instructors Association (WWIA)	3
Construction Speakers Bureau Launched	4
Construction's Economic Outlook	4
ODOT Works With Partners to Build a Larger, Diverse Workforce	5
Florida's rebuilds Initiative: Lessons in Reconstruction for Washington	5
Resources	6
Events	6
Did You Know....	7
The Construction Center of Excellence Steering Committee	7



3000 NE Fourth Street  
Renton, WA 98055  
Phone: 425-235-2352 x2217  
Volume 1, Issue 2  
Winter 2006

## **Cutting edge workforce and economic development topics:**

We heard you – and we've planned dynamic plenary and breakout sessions this year! Our complete program is now posted at [www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE) under the "annual conferences" section. Check out these session titles:

- Construction: Building Today, Building Tomorrow
- Preparedness and Preservation: Is Washington's Construction Workforce Ready to Meet Modern Challenges in Homeland Security, Natural Disasters and Infrastructure Integrity?
- Labor Shortage VS. Skill Shortage: Why is there debate over projected construction workforce demand?
- Safe Workers, Safe Worksites - Our Greatest Skill Gap
- Green Building – Residential and Capital Projects Industry Skill Panels showcase
- The Cultural Issues of Increasing Diversity in Construction: A Provocative Conversation
- Connecting Employers to Workforce Development: A Primer on Business Services
- Reflections from Women in Construction: Learning From the Past, Looking Towards the Future
- Paychecks & Prestige: What You Can Do to Help Teachers, Counselors, and Parents Guide Students towards Careers in Construction

## **Excellence in Construction Education Awards!**

This year, we're introducing a construction education award in order to recognize the many and diverse contributors to our workforce system. Categories for this award include:

### **Company of 2006:**

This award will be given to a company whose project reflects a commitment to improve their workforce by:

- Using innovative training to upgrade incumbent worker skills
- Engaging community and education to promote construction to potential workers
- Participating with workforce development partners to improve, increase and innovate construction training

### **Innovators of 2006:**

There will be up to four awards given to a construction-based educational project (or program) from these groups:

- K-12 education;
- Post-secondary education;
- Apprenticeship; and
- Private sector training.

### **Partnership of 2006:**

This award will be given to a group of stakeholders whose success has led to improved construction workforce education and training in their economic region. Nominees in this category include:

- Coalitions of industry, labor, apprenticeship committees, and schools;
- Construction skill panels;
- Workforce Development Councils;
- Associations or chapter(s) of an association; and
- Chambers of Commerce or Economic Development Councils

To nominate your project or another organization, please complete the easy nomination package on our website under the "annual conference" section, and return it to us NO LATER than January 31, 2006.

Easy conference registration is available online at [www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE). DON'T MISS IT!!!

## **Governor Gregoire Requests Senate and House Introduce Joint Bills Expanding Articulation Agreements with Apprenticeships**

On January 12, Senate Bill 6483 and House Bill 2789 were introduced with bipartisan support at the request of Governor Gregoire. These bills would expand opportunities for graduating secondary students to enter apprenticeships. This bill augments the Construction Center of Excellence's roles as a repository of information and intermediary of business and education; requests a coordinated outreach plan; and provides funding for incentive grants between school districts and apprenticeship programs, which would be managed by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council. The 59<sup>th</sup> Legislature convened its regular session for 2006 on January 9. To review committee and public hearing schedules, and to read both bills, <http://www1.leg.wa.gov/legislature/>.

## **Pierce College Offers New Construction Management Degree** **Contributed by Colleen Vadheim, Pierce College**

Construction industry representatives have partnered with Pierce College faculty and staff to develop a two-year associate degree in Construction Management. The program is designed for individuals already in the construction trades, or those who want to enter these growth occupations of construction management, supervision and project management.

*The Tacoma News Tribune* named construction management as one of Pierce County's top 10 highest-paid jobs, and one of the top 5 hot jobs for occupations expected to be in demand in Pierce County through 2012 in an article dated Dec. 11.

Classes are offered evenings, weekends and online to meet the needs of working adults. A new course, *Introduction to Construction Industry*, starts winter quarter, Wednesday evenings through March 15 at the Fort Steilacoom campus.

External partnerships have played a vital role in the creation of this new degree. Through the entire development process, Pierce worked with industry partners from Absher, Rushforth, John Korsmo, and Merit. The City of Tacoma Local Employment and Apprenticeship Program, Associated General Contractors, Southwest Washington Electrical J.A.T.C., labor organizations, K-12 programs, regional community and technical programs and four-year universities also contributed to program development.

"As a Pierce College Graduate and a construction industry advocate, I feel...the new program...will help fill a void for new workers in the industry," says Bob Stresleski, Senior Project Manager for Rushforth Construction Co., Inc. Stresleski participated in the program development.

Construction Management courses are also offered at Edmonds and Green River Community Colleges, and Renton Technical College.

## **Spotlight On: The Washington Welding Instructors Association (WWIA)**

The CCE presents a new ongoing feature in our newsletter: a showcase of Washington-based associations contributing to construction workforce development. This section will explain the association's mission, membership and services.

### **Learn Today, Work Tomorrow**

**Contributed by Rick Geist, President, Washington Welding Instructors Association (WWIA)**

The WWIA is dedicated to support welding education and welding educators. The WWIA was created in the early 1990s, about the same time as the Washington Association of Occupational Educators (WAOE) was created. The WWIA members are one of the largest groups of professional technical educators that attend the WAOE conferences. Originally, WWIA members were primarily those welding instructors that taught at the technical and community colleges in Washington State.

Today, the WWIA has expanded to include welding educators from high schools, colleges in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and British Columbia. An annual business meeting and professional development conference is held every fall; members also attend the spring WAOE conference. The next WWIA two-day fall conference will be held at Renton Technical College in October 2006.

The fall conferences are well attended, and generally include a business meeting, and visits to two or three local businesses that utilize welding. We include speakers from industry to upgrade and train on any new equipment / technology. We also set aside some social time during lunch and dinner, where instructors are able to exchange ideas and give advice.

President of WWIA is Rick Geist from Renton Technical College; Secretary is Ben Taves from Lake Washington Technical College; and Treasurer is Dan Nelson from Skagit Valley College. The WWIA is working to set up a web page and is working to expand its membership.

Information about the organization can be obtained by emailing Rick Geist at [rgeist@rtc.edu](mailto:rgeist@rtc.edu).

## Construction Skill Panels and the Construction Center of Excellence Join Forces and Launch Statewide Construction Speakers' Bureau

In December 2005, representatives of the four construction skill panels located in Pierce County, Snohomish County, Spokane and the Yakima, Kittitas, and Klickitat/Tri-County region, the Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County and the CCE met to formalize a working relationship among these intermediaries called "The Washington Construction Workforce Network" (Network). Over the next year, the network will focus on three construction workforce needs:

- Maximize the exchange of practices, research, and training solutions across Washington State;
- Reestablish the industry's prominence and prestige with K-12 and government officials; and
- Mobilize joint activities, such as career guidance for young people, and expansion of a diverse workforce.

The network's premiere effort is to coordinate industry outreach to schools and organizations. Network representatives will present regional and state activities at the Construct Seattle Expo March 21 and 22. Working with MacDonald Miller Facilities Solutions, the network is proud to introduce its Speakers' Bureau. With over 40 signature members already committed, the CCE is coordinating members to speak at schools, conferences and meetings about construction workforce topics.

Members of the Bureau receive training, promotion and can cite their participation as professional development. To join the Speakers' Bureau, go to the "resources" section of [www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE). To access the Speakers' Bureau for your event, contact Heather Fredericks at 425.235.2352, extension 5582.

## Construction's Economic Outlook – Recap of 2005, What's Ahead for 2006

In a January 2006 press release, Ken Simonson, chief economist for the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), noted that total construction growth was 9 percent higher in the first 11 months of 2005 than in the same months of 2004.

The AGC economic report is commensurate with the Commerce Department's reports that total building activity rose to record levels in November 2005, as government spending to build schools, highways and sewer systems offset a slight dip in residential construction. Simonson does caution fast-rising materials and fuel costs may have exaggerated growth in some categories, especially highway construction. AGC's press release also notes construction growth in 2005 within other key industries, including:

- Multi-retail development – up 25% to date
- Manufacturing construction – up 23%
- Private multi-family – up 21%
- Hospitals – 13%
- Private single family – 12%
- Highways and streets – 11%

The Washington State Economic Forecast and Revenue Council (EFRC) reports in its quarterly forecast continued gains in Washington's residential building and construction-related products sub-sectors. Its November 2005 state revenue forecast projects much stronger revenue collections, due to the real estate excise tax and construction activity in Washington in to 2006. The Washington State Department of Employment Security notes that construction continued employment gains even in December 2005, adding approximately 1,600 jobs statewide.

There is still considerable debate whether construction activity in 2006 will "burst," adjust slightly with interest rate increases, or continue its steady growth. Historically, construction is impacted by market fluctuations and the health of our gross domestic product. In Washington State, the EFRC reports in its quarterly forecast continued gains in Washington's residential building and construction-related products sub-sectors. It predicts single family residential building permits will decrease slightly in 2006 and 2007, but the migration of newcomers to Washington State will increase multi-family residential building projects. Nonresidential construction fell during the recession, but is expected to recover – moderate employment growth due to nonresidential construction is expected at a 1.9% increase in 2006, but expected to decline to 0.4% in 2007.

## NATIONAL BRIEFS:

### ODOT Works With Partners to Build a Larger, Diverse Workforce

Contributed by Kaylene Selk, Oregon Bridge Delivery Partners

Like Washington State, Oregon's highway and bridge construction projects will soon reach record levels in the next seven to 10 years, and the state faces a shortage of qualified workers. To address this issue, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) launched a statewide construction workforce initiative last July in Portland at the Association of Minority Entrepreneurs. The ODOT Workforce Development Plan will address these concerns:

- Boosting participation in transportation construction projects in the Portland tri-county area to 14 percent employment for women and 20 percent for minority workers;
- Increasing apprenticeship targets from the current 5 percent to 20 percent during the next 18 months; and
- Increasing training resources and opportunities for highway construction jobs.

The Workforce Development Plan calls for each of ODOT's five regions to form an active Regional Workforce Alliance designed to boost the numbers of minorities and women in the highway construction trades and create new career paths.

"The workforce program is the result of close cooperation among the diversity community, labor unions, construction contractors, community colleges and educators, local and state agencies, and others," said outgoing ODOT Director Bruce Warner. "We are working together toward a common goal: to ensure that a well-qualified and trained workforce is available for Oregon's growing number of highway construction jobs."

To learn more about the Workforce Development Plan, a draft is available on ODOT's website at [http://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/OTIA/bridge\\_delivery.shtml](http://egov.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/OTIA/bridge_delivery.shtml).

### Florida's reBuilds Initiative: Lessons in Reconstruction for Washington State?

Contributed by Andra Cornelius, Workforce Florida

In December 2005, Florida's state-level workforce development board, called Workforce Florida, authorized \$5,000,000 of Workforce Investment Act funds to provide short-term, entry-level training for up to 10,000 individuals statewide in their *Florida reBuilds* Initiative. Their goal is to train individuals who have been dislocated by storm activities; who are unemployed; or who are currently students in construction training programs. They will also recruit workers from disadvantaged populations.

Last year's hurricane season compounded social, economic and workforce issues in Florida. Just last year, 1 out of every 10 jobs created in Florida was in construction. In October 2005, the Agency for Workforce Innovation identified 13,712 construction positions waiting for qualified applicants. These statistics are impacting the state's ability to assure existing businesses can be restored, and new businesses will have access to infrastructure.

Many public and private experts in Washington State agree that we are not prepared for rebuilding after a natural disaster of the magnitude of Hurricane Katrina. One University of Washington study estimates that a massive earthquake in Seattle would damage or destroy 190,000 structures, paralyze communications and utilities, and severely impact transportation for many years. As in Florida, qualified workers with advanced OSHA and safety training certifications will be paramount to long-term economic restoration in Washington.

"Washington State and the Puget Sound Region in particular has great potential for massive natural disasters, ranging from three of our larger mountains [St. Helens, Rainier and Baker] exhibiting signs of possible volcanic activity in the recent past, to the many hydroelectric and flood control dams that could fall prey to an earthquake, or become terrorist targets," explains Chuck Bailey, former Executive Director of the Build-It-Smart program and Ironworkers 86 apprenticeship program.

"While reactive steps will most assuredly cost far more in actual capital outlay, no one can predict the human savings that will flow from the proactive approach," he adds.

## RESOURCES

**Laying the Foundation: Construction Math** is a FREE book available for downloading at the CCE website, <http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE> in the “resources” section. It was created especially for middle and high school teachers to be able to use real-world construction math lessons in their classrooms. To show our appreciation to the individuals that took the time to contribute to our math book we had a prize drawing with gift certificates for Dunn Lumber, Lowe’s and the RTC Culinary Room. The four winners were: Rick Ducharme, Renton Technical College; Royal Robinson, Plasters Apprenticeship coordinator; Walt Bubelis, Edmonds Community College and Vince Rainier, Pile Drivers Apprenticeship coordinator.

The **Washington Award for Vocational Excellence** (WAVE) scholarship is now available! Created in 1984 by the Washington State Legislature to recognize and reward students annually who excel in career and technical education, this award is administered by the Washington State Workforce Training and Education Coordinating Board. Recipients of this annual award receive monetary grants, based on availability of funds, to pay undergraduate educational expenses for two years (six quarters or four semesters) at a Washington State institution of higher education, an accredited Washington State independent college or university, or a licensed private vocational school. Go to <http://www.wtb.wa.gov> for details.

**Attention All Training Providers!** The CCE is compiling a statewide web listing of construction-related training programs offered through colleges, universities, apprenticeship training facilities, private career schools, and industry associations. As this service to employers and workforce development partners grows, we encourage you to send us your course schedules and contact information. *Be part of this web list and increase your enrollments!* Contact Heather Fredericks at 425.235.2352, extension 5582 for more information.

## EVENTS

Master Builders Association of King and Snohomish Counties  
Women Building Hope 2006 Leadership Conference  
Featuring Nancy D. Solomon  
January 27th, 2006 in Redmond, WA  
<http://www.mbaks.com>

Evergreen Safety Council  
Business Disaster Recovery Planning  
January 31, 2006 in Redmond, WA  
(800) 521-0778 or [esc@esc.org](mailto:esc@esc.org)

Land Surveyors’ Association of Washington  
LSAW/PLSO Annual Conference: “Lewis and Clark—Mapping the Journey”  
March 1— 4, 2006  
Hilton Hotel and Conference Center, Vancouver WA  
<http://www.lsaw.org>

The 2006 Built Green Conference & Expo  
March 16, 2006  
Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle  
425.460.8238 or [builtin@mbaks.com](mailto:builtin@mbaks.com)

Homeland Security Center of Excellence  
2006 Preparedness Summit  
March 17, 2006  
Pierce College  
<http://www.pierce.ctc.edu/HomelandSecurity/event/>

Construct Seattle  
March 21 and 22, 2006  
Washington State Convention & Trade Center in Seattle  
<http://www.constructseattle.com>

## DID YOU KNOW...

- Women In Construction Week is coming soon—March 20 –24, 2006? Women only comprise 9.7% of the construction industry’s workforce. Read more in the Bureau of Labor Statistics report, “**Women in the Labor Force: A Databook**” at <http://www.bls.gov>.
- Construction employment represents 30% of all employment in the goods-producing sector (which also includes manufacturing, and natural resources and mining), and construction firms account for 62% of goods-producing establishments?
- Construction industry growth has averaged 6.2% which is 8.8% higher than its previous peak in first quarter of 2001, and is 15.7% higher than in the first quarter of 2002?
- Passage of Initiative 728 in November 2000 created a Student Achievement/School Construction Account from lottery revenue? Prior to the passage of 728, most lottery revenue went into state funds. In 2002, the Legislature passed E2SSB 6560, which allows the state to participate in a multi-state lottery game. Proceeds from this game, called “Mega Millions,” go into state general funds after the first \$102 million are deposited into the aforementioned account. Initiative 728 also transferred a portion of state property tax levy into this account.
- As of September 2005, Seattle has more LEED-certified and LEED-registered green building projects than any other city in the United States? LEED stands for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design.
- The American Society of Civil Engineers has formed a Building Security Council, and would like to create a voluntary rating system similar to the U.S. Global Council’s LEED system? The ratings would measure if a building could withstand acts of terrorism, and natural disasters.
- Taxable sales in the construction sector accounted for 17.8 percent of all taxable sales in Washington, and was 16 percent higher than just one year ago?
- Four Northwest firms were among 30 firms that are receiving the American Institute of Architects awards for their outstanding projects? The firms selected from 700 nominations across the county include: Bohlin Cywinski Jackson, for their design of the new Ballard Library and Neighborhood Service Center; SRG Partnership, for the Washington State Legislative Building Rehabilitation; Mithun+Associates for the Lloyd Crossing Sustainable Urban Design Plan; and BOORA Architects of Portland, Oregon for the Temporary Theater located in Portland.
- The Edmonds Community College Construction Management program has been in place for 38 years?

### The Construction Center of Excellence Steering Committee

Steve Baldwin, [Snohomish County Workforce Development Council](#)

Beth Blanchard, [Workforce Development Council of Seattle-King County](#)

Bill Bowser, [Puget Sound Electrical JATC](#)

Dick Chamblin, [Bates Technical College](#)

Pinky Dale, [South Seattle Community College/Duwamish Apprenticeship and Education Center](#)

Jim Elmore, [MacDonald Miller Facility Solutions](#)

Rebecca Harrison, [Tacoma Pierce County Employment & Training Consortium](#)

Mike Hudson, [Institute of Workforce Development and Economic Sustainability, Association of Washington Business](#)

Sandra Husband, [Washington State Department of Labor & Industries](#)

Ed Holmes, [Seattle Area Pipe Trades](#)

Steve Ignac, [Lathing Acoustical and Drywall Systems Apprenticeship](#)

Mark Kearns, [Iron Workers Local #86, AFL-CIO](#)

Rodd Kippen, [Pro-Cost](#)

Larry Leet, [City of Seattle](#)

Leanne Liddicoat, [AGC of Washington Education Foundation](#)

Kevin Managhan, [Inland Empire Electrical Training Trust](#)

Amy Martinez, [Tri-County Workforce Development Council](#)

Rachelle Leigh McGinnis, [Bates Technical College](#)

Lee Newgent, [Pacific Northwest Iron Workers/Employers Apprenticeship Trust](#)

Denise Salo, [Sound Transit](#)

Sam Samano, [Snohomish County Workforce Development Council](#)

Tawny Sayers, [Northwest Laborers Employers Training Trust](#)

John Schaufelberger, [University of Washington](#)

Dave Stahnke, [Hermanson Company LLP](#)

Doug Steinmetzer, [Heat and Frost Insulators/Asbestos Workers Apprenticeship](#)

Ed Thomas, Retired Welder

Kathy L. Thomas, [Tri-County Workforce Development Council](#)

Don Thompson, Commercial Welding

Dale Wentworth, [Seattle Area Pipe Trades](#)

Anne Wetmore, [US Department of Labor](#)