

# CONSTRUCTION CONNECTIONS

Volume 1, Number 5

## Note from the Director

Fall is fast approaching, and to me, this is the most exciting time of year—kids return to school, the holidays are around the corner, and it's a terrific time to plan for success in the year ahead. This issue of **Construction Connections** includes features with resources to improve construction connections to education, including applied math, career awareness and planning, and safety training.

Over the summer, the CCE Steering Committee has worked diligently on its two-year Strategic Plan. **The draft is now available on our website for public comment through September 30 at:**

[www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE).

Feedback will be reviewed by the Steering Committee in early October, and the plan will be finalized this fall. During this planning process, Steering Committee members continually came to the same and shared conclusions – we can envision what our success looks like. I extend my gratitude to these dedicated and thoughtful leaders.

But, just as we plan for future work, it is important to recognize the contributions already made in construction workforce development. The CCE regrets to announce we will be losing the insightful leadership of Beth Arman, Dean of Trade & Industry and Apprenticeship at Renton Technical College. Her family is moving to the east coast to pursue new opportunities. While we are sad to see Beth leave, we know she will still be committed to career and technical education.

~ Heather Winfrey

## Easy Ways YOU can celebrate Careers in Construction Week!

Governor Christine Gregoire released her 2006 proclamation recognizing Careers in Construction Week in Washington State, October 16 -20, 2006. As the school year begins, this is a terrific time to remind students of the many highly skilled, high wage professions within construction. It is also a time to celebrate the accomplishments of construction workers at all levels of experience, and the contributions they make to our communities.

Check out our list of suggested activities for schools and other organizations at [www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE), including our construction math lessons and the CCE's own Fine Design! coloring gallery for elementary school students. The Governor's proclamation for this week can also be downloaded from this page.

If you are planning an activity, please contact Judy Amico at 425.235.2352, extension 2217 or [jamico@rtc.edu](mailto:jamico@rtc.edu), and we will promote your event in future newsletters and on our website.

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## Attention Math Teachers! FREE Construction Math Lesson Plans and Construction Math Book Available!

We are delighted to offer four lesson plans designed for middle and high school classrooms based on our textbook, **Laying the Foundation: Construction Math**. These fun lesson plans include student worksheets, instructors' keys, a list of recommended materials for hands-on activities, and additional visual cues. Go to the **resources** section of our website, [www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE) to download these plans.

This fall, we are working with the Transition Math Project, the Associated General Contractors of Washington Education Foundation, and the Washington Construction Workforce Network to launch **Blueprint for Success – Construction Math Initiative**. We're developing a Construction Math Toolbox, which will include additional lesson plans, an instructional guide and career planning materials; four In-Service Construction Math workshops; and two weeklong Construction Math Institutes in Western and Eastern Washington.

These FREE products and events will help teachers link the College Readiness Standards to applied learning experiences. Materials and a calendar of events for **Blueprint** will be posted on our website by the end of 2006.

## The Original Four Year Degree – An Inspiring DVD Designed for Students

*Submitted by Terry Tilton, State Building and Construction Trades Council (SBCTC)*

At its summer convention in July, the SBCTC introduced its new DVD, titled "Apprenticeship Opportunities with the Washington State Building and Construction Trades." This exciting, eight minute DVD is an excellent career guidance tool showcasing the rigor and excellence within apprenticeships. It highlights apprentices and incumbent workers who discuss their careers, and how others can pursue the same path.

This DVD can be ordered through the SBCTC by calling 360.357.6778 – quantities are limited, and the inexpensive cost covers production and shipping. The CCE will be working with the SBCTC to further distribute this DVD with the **Blueprint for Success: Construction Math Initiative**.

## Community and Technical Colleges Expand Construction Programs

*Submitted by Beth Arman, Dean of Trade & Industry and Apprenticeship, Renton Technical College*

In August, the State Board for Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC) announced the recipients of High Demand grants. Of these awards, 5 community and technical colleges offering construction programs will expand training by 95 full time equivalent (FTE) slots, including:

- **Bates Technical College** – Electrical Construction – additional 18 FTE
- **Bellingham Technical College** – Industrial Commercial Construction expansion – additional 40 FTE
- **Big Bend Community College** – Welding Technology program – additional 13 FTE
- **Edmonds Community College** – Construction Industries pathways – additional 12 FTE
- **Pierce College** – evening Construction Management courses – additional 12 FTE

Renton Technical College and South Puget Sound Community College also expanded their construction offerings, using state allocation funds. **Renton Technical College** added full-time, afternoon/evening instructors in Construction Management and Basic Welding. **South Puget Sound Community College** added an evening Welding section.

Additionally, several two-year colleges received Opportunity Grants to provide scholarships and support services to construction students, as well as students in other targeted fields. Opportunity Grants were established by the Legislature in 2006, and are administered by SBCTC. The colleges include:

- **Bellingham Technical College/Whatcom Community College** – construction and other fields;
- **Clover Park Technical College** – construction, environmental science and landscaping, and allied health;
- **Edmonds Community College** – construction and other fields;
- **Olympic College** – welding and allied health; and
- **Peninsula College** – welding and allied health.

The CCE congratulates its partners in excellent construction training around Washington for their expansion efforts and grant awards, and we look forward to highlighting their continued work in this newsletter.

## Op-Ed: Preparing for a Lifetime

*Submitted by Chuck Bailey, Member, International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers*

When I began my life in construction, we had work rules in our contract that specified there would be one apprentice for every seven journeyman Ironworkers. So, when you were on a job with 25 Ironworkers, you would have around three apprentices on that job. There are many theories as to this policy, but the bottom line is that each apprentice had seven guardians to keep them focused, on target and above all else; SAFE.

Times have changed. In a climate where the amount of available work is so great that the average apprentice is dispatched for about 1.5 journey-level Ironworkers, the priorities are different. For today's apprentices to be productive, safe and healthy, they receive hours of Safety Orientation and work exposure training prior to the first dispatch. The rest of the trades have a similar process. But, in these times, is this enough?

In most cases, the apprentices or students preparing to be apprentice figure out fairly quickly that production and quality of work are the things that are going to get them ahead in this business. What they may not fully understand is the potential for harm associated with the exposure to scores of chemicals, dusts and fumes, or the hazards imposed on them by other workers, other crafts and work processes other than their own. I believe that each trade does an admirable job of training on safety issues related to their respective trades and their respective work processes, but I feel collectively, we are lacking an accurate portrayal of the worksite or our industry as a whole.

By way of example, let me pose this question: How many of us are giving our students and entry level apprentices basic information about construction related NOISE and its relationship to Hearing Loss? Without this information, how would we expect them to make intelligent decisions about protecting their hearing?

Similar questions can be posed about many of the known hazards that we as an industry somewhat take for granted.

As we bring new generations into this work, we must ask ourselves if we are preparing them for a lifetime of working in this industry or are we just playing catch-up to fill the immediate gaps. I'm afraid, if we are doing the latter, we may find the consequences unacceptable.

Industrial Insurance rates for the Construction Industry are over three times greater than those of the general workforce, and these rates can be expected to continuously climb due to the following three factors:

- Health Care costs are spiraling out of control.
- The skill gap between the number of retirement age workers and the number of entry level workers is reaching its predicted high levels.
- The unprecedented employment growth in construction will require even more entry level workers than we're able to attract to our industry.

Inexperienced entry level workers tend to be the most vulnerable to occupational injuries and disease. It therefore makes sense that this population be the target for efforts focused on using general Hazard Awareness as a means to assist in efforts to reduce industrial injuries and disease. By taking the time and investing our resources in the preparation of our future workforce that will keep them Safe & Healthy, we will reap benefits at every level. To do otherwise, would be a sad mistake.

## Hazards Awareness Train the Trainer – Keeping Every Worker Safe

The CCE is pleased to co-host with the Industrial Safety Training Coalition and the Washington State Apprenticeship Training Council (WSATC) its first FREE Train the Trainer seminar, "Hazards Awareness," on Thursday, October 19 from 3pm to 5pm at the WSATC quarterly meeting in Pasco, Washington.

This informative seminar is designed especially for apprenticeship coordinators, secondary and post-secondary construction training providers, and contractors who want their students and/or workers to be able to identify whole-site safety issues, and maintain safe conditions for all crafts. This is one of the most critical topics for young workers, and first year apprentices, impacting recruitment and retention rates.

The seminar will be taught by Chuck Bailey, whose extensive credentials include 45 years as a member of the International Association of Bridge, Structural and Ornamental Ironworkers, and 30 years teaching safety and health courses.

Wonderful training materials are included – space is limited! Go to [www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/ComingEvents](http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/ComingEvents).

## Do you have site supervisors or other employees who need safety training? Check out the Occupational Safety and Health Technician Program

*Submitted by Kerrie Murphy, Edmonds Community College*

Edmonds Community College in Lynnwood and Pierce College in Lakewood have designed a joint program in **Occupational Safety and Health**. Courses are structured to meet the challenging schedules of current professionals by providing instruction on-line, through interactive television programming or with limited weekend contact hours, depending on the course. The curriculum includes courses in industrial hygiene, ergonomics, accident prevention, incident investigation, risk management, handling hazardous materials, construction safety, and many other topics.

Individual courses may be taken for professional development. Those students completing the two year program requirements will be prepared to transfer to Central Washington University to the bachelor's program in Safety Management.

For more information, call Kerrie Murphy, Program Coordinator at (425) 640-1843 or check it out on the web at [www.edcc.edu/osh/](http://www.edcc.edu/osh/).

## Grant Funding Available to Help School Districts Start Pre-Apprenticeship Programs

*Submitted by Elizabeth Smith, Washington State Department of Labor and Industries*

Earlier this year, Governor Christine Gregoire signed SHB 2789, legislation which she called "Running Start for the Trades." Part of this bill was funding to be distributed as incentive grants by the Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council (WSATC) to help schools districts communicate and negotiate with local apprenticeship programs to plan for and implement pre-apprenticeship training programs.

The incentive grant application is now available on the OSPI iGrants system. The grant application period opened August 22nd. **All applications must be received by OSPI by 4 pm, Friday, September 22nd.** The incentive grants are going to be given as 10 grants of \$7,500 each. The grant period will be one year. The grants will be made to school districts solely for the purpose of negotiating and implementing agreements with local apprenticeship programs in the building and construction trades. The Council will attempt to award to both big and small districts evenly across the state. The Council will award and notify the 10 winning school districts in late September.

If you have question or if you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please contact Elizabeth Smith, Department of Labor & Industries at (360) 902-4425, or by email, [smel235@LNI.wa.gov](mailto:smel235@LNI.wa.gov)

Link to iGrants: <https://eds.ospi.k12.wa.us/igrants/> (Click on "Funding Opportunities" and scroll down)

## The Associated General Contractors Education Foundation (AGCEF) Offering Scholarships to Students and Schools

*Submitted by Leanne Liddicoat, AGCEF*

The 2007 AGCEF student and organization scholarship applications and guidelines are now available at [http://www.agcwa.com/Public/education/grant\\_schol.asp](http://www.agcwa.com/Public/education/grant_schol.asp). Scholarships are awarded to high school and college students who are pursuing a career in construction, and grants are made to schools and community groups that are promoting construction as a career choice.

The deadline for scholarship applications is March 1, 2007, and the deadline for the school grants is February 1, 2007. Check out the AGCEF website for further details.

We are also pleased to announce Derek Sparks joined the AGCEF team this summer as our new Careers Coordinator. Mr. Sparks will oversee educational projects, including partner work with the CCE on the **Blueprint for Success: Construction Math Initiative**.

## Spokane Area High Schools – Construction Career Day - October 5 and 6

*Submitted by Marvin Jenkins, Washington State Department of Transportation – Apprenticeship Division*

The Associated General Contractors, National Association of Women in Construction, Eastern Washington Apprenticeship Coordinators, Community Colleges of Spokane, Spokane Public Schools, Spokane Tribe, Office of Minority and Women Enterprise, WorkSource and the Department of Transportation are hosting Construction Career Day October 5 and 6 at the Spokane County Fair and Expo Center.

This exciting event has been designed for Spokane area high schools, and features hands-on activities and informational booths. For more information, contact Deb Crapes at 509.354.6451 or Kevin Manahan at 509.534.0922.

## Collaborating for Success: Apprenticeship Orientation in Oregon

*Submitted by Kaylene Selk, Oregon Bridge Delivery Partners*

The Portland Metro Area Regional Workforce Alliance held its first orientation sessions in July and August to prepare 31 potential apprentices for entering careers in heavy highway construction on the OTIA III State Bridge Delivery Program.

ODOT collaborated with the Oregon Employment Department, Bureau of Labor and Industries, and WorkSystems Inc. to develop orientation classes helping candidates meet apprenticeship requirements to enter into the heavy highway construction labor pool. Those requirements include academic and skills testing, registration in a job database, and viewing an ODOT-produced video designed to prepare people for a career in highway construction.

Apprenticeships in heavy highway construction trades such as ironworking, carpentry and equipment operation provide occupational training that combines on-the-job experience with classroom instruction. Students can also apply these credits toward an associate degree. Typically, these paid apprenticeships last two to five years and allow people to earn a livable wage while they learn.

"Apprenticeships start at approximately \$16 per hour, or 60 percent of what a certified journey worker makes, and we'll prepare you to manage your money," said David Dixon of ODOT's Office of Civil Rights. "If you look at this as a career, the opportunities for financial and professional growth are limitless."

## King and Snohomish County High Schools: Come to the Build Your Future Event on October 3, 2006

*Submitted by Cathy Feole, Master Builders Education Foundation (MBEF)*

The MBEF is hosting Build Your Future – Student Competition and Job Fair at the Northwest Builders Show on Tuesday, October 3, held at the Washington State Trade and Convention Center in Seattle.

Students competitions include a computer-based game called "Building Homes of Our Own," and a dog house building contest (proceeds from dog houses sold will be given to the schools sponsoring teams). All participants will receive a free pass to the entire Northwest Builders Show to see the most up-to-date equipment and services.

Check out the Build Your Future event brochure for more details at

<http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/ComingEvents/>

## Other Upcoming Events...

See the CCE Events page at <http://www.rtc.edu/CommunityResources/CCE/ComingEvents/> for a regularly updated listing of conferences and workshops around the Pacific Northwest. Have an event to add? Contact Judy Amico at 425-235-2352 x2217 or [jamico@rtc.edu](mailto:jamico@rtc.edu).

### **City of Tacoma -**

#### **Leap Brownfields Environmental Training**

Session Two: End of September 2006 through November 2006

Contact: Cynthia Neubauer-Lee,

253.284.9017

### **Green Building Training For Building Maintenance Staff**

September 13, 2006

For more information call Janet Macri 206.684.7269

### **WABO Training Opportunities**

#### **Building Official Professional Development**

September 14 - 15, 2006

[click here to register](#)

### **"Unity in the Universe"**

5th Annual State Diversity Fair

September 20, 2006

Contact: Anne Williams at 360.725.8590

### **State Free Seminar IE**

#### **Cadastral Survey Basics**

September 23, 2006

[Flyer](#)

## Other Upcoming Events...cont.

### **55th Annual Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Conference**

September 27 - 28, 2006

[www.wagovconf.org/overview.htm](http://www.wagovconf.org/overview.htm)

### **Pierce County Job Fair**

September 28, 2006

For more information go to: [www.go2worksource.com](http://www.go2worksource.com)

### **Construction Career and Resource Fair 2006**

September 29, 2006

[Click here](#) for registration and additional information.

### **Building Your Future**

#### **Student Competition and Job Fair Hosted by Northwest Association of Builders**

October 3, 2006

[Click here](#) for additional information.

### **American Planning Association**

#### **Washington Chapter Conference 2006**

October 4 - 6, 2006

To register click [here](#)

### **Construction Career Day 2006**

October 5 - 6, 2006

For more information click [here](#)

### **Snohomish County Job Fair**

October 12, 2006

[www.snocojobfair.com](http://www.snocojobfair.com)

### **WABO Training Opportunities**

#### **SW Washington Chapter ICC Fall Seminar 2006**

October 16—17, 2006

For information contact [teresa.guise@clark.wa.gov](mailto:teresa.guise@clark.wa.gov)

### **Northwest Environmental Summit**

October 18 - 19, 2006

More information go to [www.awb.org/ecwashington/](http://www.awb.org/ecwashington/)

### **Hazards Awareness Train the Trainer**

October 19, 2006

More information and how to register go to click [here](#).

### **Building the World's Best Workforce**

#### **2006 Fall Conference**

October 19, 2006, 7:30am - 4:30pm

October 20, 2006, 7:30am - 11:30am

More information go to [www.washingtonworkforce.org/conference/index.php](http://www.washingtonworkforce.org/conference/index.php)

### **"What about Tomorrow?" Career and College Fair**

October 25, 2006

For more information contact: [lsamano@snocowdc.org](mailto:lsamano@snocowdc.org)

### **Next Steps Conference**

November 14, 2006

Click here for [registration](#) information

### **2007 Licensed to Survey**

February 28 - March 3, 2007

Visit [www.lsaw.org](http://www.lsaw.org) for details.

## Did You Know...

...the National Apprenticeship Act (often called the Fitzgerald Act), which sets the high labor standards for apprenticeship through employer-labor contracts, was passed by Congress in 1937?

...Seattle Seahawk Bryce Fisher's mother was a carpenter?

...the Three Gorges Dam project in China is considered the largest current construction project in the world – and the finished dam will be over one mile wide, creating a reservoir over 400 miles in length?

... the Bureau of Labor Statistics reports construction is the only goods-producing sector expected in which employment is expected to grow in the United States?

...the Washington State Department of Transportation has web cameras posted along the Narrows Bridge expansion project? You can check it out at: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/projects/sr16narrowsbridge/webcams/camera.cfm?module=westtower2.cfm>

...the Renton Technical College Library Collection has nearly 1,500 books, journals, and multi-media materials about construction that can be checked out through inter-library loan within the community and technical college system? Contact our library at <http://www.rtc.edu/library/database.htm>

## The Construction Center of Excellence Steering Committee

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

**Chuck Bailey**, [Ironworkers Local #86](#)

**William Bender**, [Central Washington University](#)

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

**Lucy Bodilly**, [Northwest Construction](#)

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

**Ted Carroll**, [Seattle School District](#)

**Dick Chamblin**, [Bates Technical College](#)

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

**Marvin Doster**, [Mortenson & Company](#)

**Willie Elliott**, [Tacoma Pierce County Employment & Training Consortium](#)

**Matt Gordon**, [New Market Skill Center](#)

**Peter Guzman** [City of Tacoma](#)

**Melina Harris**, [Sisters In the Building Trades](#)

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

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

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

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

**Uriel Iniguez**, [Washington State Commission, Hispanic Affairs](#)

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

**Judy Jewell** [Olympian Precast](#)

**Rodd Kippen**, [Pro-Cost](#)

**Sean Lewis**, [Absher Construction](#)

**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](#)

## **The Construction Center of Excellence Steering Committee cont.**

**Lee Newgent**, [Seattle-King County Building and Construction Trades Council AFL-CIO](#)

**Kelcey Packineau**, [Yakama TERO Office](#)

**Dave Perrin**, [Construction Industry Training Council](#)

**Ken Pierson**, [Seattle-Tacoma Occupational Skills Center](#)

**Melissa Pressley**, [KIRO TV](#)

**Cal Pygott**, [Bothell High School](#)

**Arne Reyier**, [Rushforth Construction](#)

**Rickie Robinson**, [Seattle Housing Authority](#)

**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](#)

**Darlene Septelka** [King County Bridgewater Project](#)

**Kathy Swan**, [Pacific NW Regional Council of Carpenters](#)

**Ed Thomas**, Retired Welder

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

**Don Thompson**, Commercial Welding

**Colleen Vadheim**, [Pierce College](#)

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

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

**Valerie Whitman** [Max J Kuney Company](#)