March 5th @ NW College of Construction
Workforce Development Update

**Thursday, 11:30am, March 5th ORACCA meeting**

The *March meeting* is scheduled to be held at the NW College of Construction 8111 NE Holman St, Portland, OR 97218 at 11:30AM, Thursday, March 5, 2020.

**Lunch is being provided by Federated Insurance, an ORACCA Gold Sponsor,** so bring your appetite and join your fellow HVAC contractors to network and hear about the ongoing efforts to add qualified people to our workforce.

Our presenters will be Loren Watts, Watts Heating and Kimberly Farris, Director of Apprenticeship and NCCER Master Trainer, with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Pacific Northwest

In 2015, the HVACR Workforce Development Foundation commissioned three reports asking, “What is the cause of the talent gap and what can we do to close it?”

Why are high school students pointed toward an academic careers rather than the trades. Should such graduates be so inclined, why not investigate stable high paying employment in the trades. This as opposed to devoting four more years of classes and the associated costs/debt, etc.

- HVACR jobs are available and they are everywhere.
- HVACR jobs provide good salaries for a good quality of life.
- HVACR jobs are available for a diverse level of skill sets.

Yet, there are too many empty seats in HVACR classrooms, community and vocational colleges are not training enough students, there is no clear credentialing or accreditation programs, schools are losing half of their instructors to retirement, incoming student are unprepared for the program, recruitment practices are lacking, and more women and minorities are needed in the profession.

Our first presenter, Loren Watts has been involved in developing programs to bring people into the trades from many years. One segment of these programs is designed to acquaint educators with the trades.

AGC successfully partnered with Willamette Promise and the Willamette Education Service District to develop a summer educator externship program. In 2017 we completed our second year with 28 educators and over 60 industry partner hosts. 2018 we completed our third year with over 65 educators and over 100 industry partner host and just last year we went statewide with over 120 educators and over 150 industry partners, in 2018 this program won 2nd place in Washington DC for a national Award for innovation in construction.
This program has been instrumental in connecting local construction companies with educators to provide first-hand experience and exposure to the limitless opportunities of careers in construction.

Through these experiences educators are better equipped to relay numerous career pathways in construction to their students through new lesson plans, and presentations, and industry connections.

The following finalist were awarded at the AGC National Centennial Celebration:

- **First place**: Brayman Construction Corp- *TyBot* (robot tying rebar)
- **Second place**: ACG Oregon Columbia Chapter- *Educator Externship*
- **Third place**: Sundt Construction- *CTK Technology*

**Semi-finalist from New Orleans in October**

- Granger Construction- Michigan State University Stadium retrofit
- Sundt Construction- education at the speed of industry

The Educator Externship program is a two-week summer experience, where educators can gain hands-on learning experiences about many of the various careers available in the construction industry. Educators visit multiple construction company offices and jobsites to better understand the skills and competencies needed to perform occupations in the skilled trades, professional, and administrative arenas. Educators are required to complete informational interviews, maintain a reflective journal, and develop at least one lesson plan.

This Educator Externship Program was designed on the Discovery Project model, which had the following objectives:

- **Infuse Real-World Relevance**: Experience firsthand the skills, knowledge, and technologies expected of students as they enter the modern workplace.
- **Develop Partnerships**: Foster relationships with local business professionals in high-demand, high-wage industry sectors.
- **Foster Multi-Disciplinary Connections**: Explore curriculum, spaces, processes and/or systems that help students to make connections between academic and technical information.
- **Increase Career Related Learning**: Expose educators to various careers within the industry, to engage students in the skills needed to succeed in construction careers and help students identify career opportunities within the industry.

We are currently working on “Bridging the gap” working with distributors and wholesale houses to assist with industry growth, more to come on that as we get closer to the March meeting, we are rolling this model out March 11, 2020 so Loren should have more by the time of the ORACCA meeting.

We are also working on an internship approved through the State of Oregon and BOLI endorsed for getting more younger people allowed on our job sites and getting credit for working in the trades while attending school. Loren will also have more info on this at the meeting.

Here are two videos that further discussion the merits of these programs

[https://youtu.be/GLoDAOhCL8E](https://youtu.be/GLoDAOhCL8E)
[https://youtu.be/_ttRGtrhgDo](https://youtu.be/_ttRGtrhgDo)

Our second presenter, Kimberly Farris will be presenting on ABC PNW’s efforts in workforce development and the 5 apprenticeship programs offered: HVAC, Sheet Metal, Sprinkler Fitter, Tile, and TAB.

There is an incredible opportunity to join with ABC PNW and become a registered training agent with these programs. Apprenticeship training offers related classroom training that is immediately applied with on-the-job training. Training Today for Tomorrow! ABC co-ordinates the apprenticeship programs of Oregon.

Join us March 5th at the NW College of Construction, 11:30am.
Not a member? We’d love to serve you, too.
For additional information visit www.oracca.org or call 360-834-3805. Email dick@oracca.org

TRAINING/TESTING

On-Demand Training/Testing. This means the tests are scheduled with both your availability and that of the proctor in mind. Once you feel comfortable to take the test, a date and place are set up through the ORACCA office. Call 360-824-3805 for information. These on demand training/testing sessions include the following:

- EPA 608 CFC Training/Test - Now Available!
- NATE Training/Test Core, Gas Heat and Heat Pump
- Brazing Certification Test, March 20, 2020, PCC @ Swan Island Facility
Visit our Website for information on the association’s activities.
www.oracca.org

MEETING DATES 2020

January 16 - Codes Update @NW Natural, Sherwood - NATE CEU (1.0), CCB CE (1.0)
February 6 - Utility Update @ PGE Wilsonville - NATE CEU (1.0), CCB CE (1.0)
March 5 - Workforce Development - NATE CEU (8.0), CCB CE (1.0)
March 20th - Brazing Test, 8:00AM PCC, Swan Island 2020
April 16 - Codes Update @NW Natural, Sherwood - NATE CEU (1.0) & CCB CE 2.0
May 7 - TBD - NATE CEU (1.0) CCB CE (1.0)
June 12 - Brazing Test, 8:00AM PCC, Swan Island 2020
June 13 - Shoot Out - Canby Rod & Gun Club
June 18 - Codes Update @ NW Natural, Sherwood- NATE CEU (1.0), CCB CE (2.0)
July 13 - Golf Tournament - Oregon City Golf Course
August - No Meeting
Sept. 17 - TBD- NATE CEU (1.0),
October 15 - Codes Update @NW Natural, Sherwood - NATE CEU (1.0) & CCB CE 2.0
October 16 - Brazing Test, 8:00AM PCC, Swan Island 2020
Nov. 5 - TBD - NATE CEU (1.0), CCB CE (1.0)
Dec. 3 - Xmas Party @ Lennox
Dec. 18 - Brazing Test, 8:00AM PCC, Swan Island 2020

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