



*"PROMOTING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO AMERICA'S YOUTH"*

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**BACKGROUNDER**  
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## **COLORADO TEAMS UP, OFFERS HANDS-ON DESIGN/ CONSTRUCTION CAREER LEARNING TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS**

### **WHY THE NEED FOR CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAYS**

Many high school students lack the opportunity to discover careers in construction, as more and more schools no longer offer vocational-tech or industrial art classes. Students struggle to find fulfilling career paths that offer financial rewards and advancement opportunities. Each year the Colorado design and construction industry provides students the opportunity to explore the wide range of careers offered by the construction industry.

Jobs have been lost in construction as well as most other industries during this economic climate, but predictions still indicate that the industry will need up to 250,000 new workers per year to meet future growth projections. At the same time, numbers of construction and related jobs in the energy sector are growing, and "Baby-Boom" workers are retiring. Job vacancies will continue to exist in the design/construction industry, and employment levels are expected to stabilize and recover, particularly as federal stimulus dollars enter the economy.

### **BUSINESS, EDUCATION, AND GOVERNMENT WORKING TOGETHER**

Representatives from over 50 construction companies, construction-related industry organizations, school districts, community-based organizations, and state and federal agencies come together as a team each year to organize Colorado Construction Career Days. Members of

the planning committee and many others serve as sponsors for the event, provide hands-on activities, and encourage valuable employees to volunteer in helping to prepare and provide staffing for the event.

The 2009 Colorado Construction Career Days event will be held at the Adams County Fairgrounds on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, where 1,500-1,600 students will gather from over 36 school districts across Colorado. The goals of the event are:

- To increase the number of men and women entering the construction industry.
- To educate young people about the many training and career opportunities available in the construction industry.
- To broaden students' knowledge about the opportunities within the construction industry.

### **COLORADO CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAYS**

Colorado Construction Career Days is unique among its peers nationwide in that every student experiences hands-on activities in construction trades, engineering or engineering technology, architecture, and energy. Students get up-close and personal with heavy highway equipment, masonry, AutoCAD drafting, soil testing, surveying, and much, much more. Small groups of students are guided through the activities by experienced construction-industry professionals, who offer first-hand information on what to expect from a career in construction.

The first Colorado Construction Career Days was held in 2003 and was modeled after the first event, held in Texas in 1999. For more information about the first event, and about Construction Career Days across the country, visit [www.constructioncaredays.us](http://www.constructioncaredays.us).

Organizers for the 2009 Colorado event are once again expecting to have their hands full accommodating the 1500-1600 students expected.

Sponsorships and donated items are crucial to the success of Colorado Construction Career Days. Donors may send checks to the AGC Construction Education and Research Foundation, located at 1114 W. 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Denver, CO 80204. Donations are tax deductible for many taxpayers, as a contribution to a 501(c)(3) charitable foundation.

### **COLORADO CONSTRUCTION CAREER DAYS**

#### **PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Adams County Workforce Center/Adams County ■ Alcorn Construction, Inc. ■ American Council of Engineering Companies of Colorado ■ American Institute of Architects ■ American Public Works Association ■ AMI Mechanical ■ Arapahoe/Douglas Works ■ Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries ■ Associated Builders and Contractors ■ Associated General

Contractors of Colorado ■ Associated Landscape Contractors of Colorado ■ Aurora Public Schools ■ Cherry Creek School District ■ Colorado Association of Mechanical and Plumbing Contractors ■ Colorado Business Bank ■ Colorado Contractors Association ■ Colorado Department of Labor and Employment ■ Colorado Department of Transportation ■ Colorado Trades Council of Training Directors Association ■ Colorado Workforce Center ■ Construction Industry Training Council ■ Constructors and Designers Alliance ■ Denver Joint Electrical Apprenticeship & Training Council ■ Denver Public Schools ■ Douglas County Schools ■ Duro Electric Company ■ Energy Voice Institute ■ Federal Highway Administration ■ Fransen Pittman General Contractors ■ G.H. Phipps Construction Companies ■ Haselden Construction, Inc ■ Hensel Phelps Construction ■ Hispanic Contractors of Colorado ■ Independent Electrical Contractors ■ International Code Council, Colorado Chapter ■ LMCC & Kansas City and Vicinity Carpenter's District Council ■ McGraw-Hill Construction ■ Mechanical Contractors Association ■ National Association of Women in Construction ■ National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA) ■ Office of Economic Development City/County of Denver ■ Pickens Technical College ■ Red Rocks Community College ■ Rocky Mountain Masonry Institute ■ Saunders Construction ■ The State Youth Council ■ Stettner, Miller and Cohn, P.C. ■ U.S. Department of Labor - OAT ■ U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA ■ United Rentals ■ Wagner Equipment ■ Western Summit Constructors, Inc.

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