



NEWS RELEASE

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Hundreds Attend BCANJ's Construction Industry Career Day

LINCROFT, NJ – Coordinated by Building Contractors Association of New Jersey, construction industry groups once again joined forces for the 8th annual Construction Industry Career Day (CICD) on Thursday, April 23, and Friday, April 24, 2009, at Brookdale Community College in Lincroft.

And once again, despite a struggling economy, the two-day event was a tremendous success. Thursday's session, open to the public, welcomed 300 students, parents, educators and career-seekers. Registration for Friday's "Just Juniors" event reached full capacity a month in advance, and more than 1,500 high school juniors and educators attended the free half-day introduction to careers in the construction industry.

"CICD is not a traditional job fair," emphasizes event coordinator Jill Schiff, Membership Services Director of BCANJ. "We don't accept resumes or applications. But every year, Construction Industry Career Day draws more and more people, because it's an unusual and unprecedented opportunity to view the construction industry from both the craftworker and contractor perspective, all in one venue."

Visitors to the event enjoyed numerous exhibits and interactive demonstrations conducted by the apprentices and journey workers of New Jersey's construction trades. Students and adults alike tried their hand at laying brick, operating a front-end loader, making a carpenter's toolbox and many other activities at the trades' exhibits.

To gain a view of the management side of construction, visitors met with representatives from New Jersey's union contractor associations, as well as from regional four-year colleges that offer construction management and engineering programs. Many students, parents and even educators are surprised to discover that, while students can pursue a traditional college education and enter the construction field, they can also earn college credit while working hands-on in the building trades' apprenticeship programs. BCANJ and its labor partners

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successfully championed the formal recognition of apprenticeship training as a viable alternative to college, and last fall, in its 2008/2009 School Report Card, the New Jersey Department of Education for the first time labeled apprenticeship programs as “positive post-secondary placement” rather than simply “going to work,” the previous designation. New Jersey high school students can take advantage of the best of both worlds in construction, starting a rewarding career in the building trades while earning college credit that can continue to open opportunities in the field.

“Both union contractors and union craftworkers look to replenish their workforces with young men and women just coming out of school,” says Schiff. “CICD is designed to increase awareness that construction is a safe, creative and productive career that offers the opportunity for growth, fulfillment and economic success.”

Organizations participating as major event sponsors for Construction Industry Career Day included the Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers; Building Contractors Association of New Jersey; Construction Industry Advancement Program; Mechanical Contracting Industry Council of New Jersey; New Jersey Carpenter Contractor Trust; New Jersey Laborers' Employers' Cooperation Education Trust; and New Jersey State Building & Construction Trades Council.

Construction Roundtable of New Jersey, the District Council of Northern NJ Ironworkers and the International Union of Painters & Allied Trades committed to various levels of sponsorship. Other exhibitors included Boilermakers, Local #28; Electricians, Locals #164, #400 and #456; Insulators, Local #32; Monmouth County Vocational School District; New Jersey Institute of Technology; Operating Engineers, Local #825; Pennsylvania College of Technology; Plumbers and Pipefitters, Locals #9 and #24, and HVAC; Rutgers, the State University; Roofers, Local #4; Sheet Metal Workers, Local #22; the US Department of Labor Office of Apprenticeship, US Department of Labor OSHA and US Department of Labor Office of Wage & Hour.

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