

-- NEWS ADVISORY --

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Dan Graham, President

(503) 256-7300

cell (503) 535-9149

dang@nwcoc.com

www.nwcoc.com

NORTHWEST COLLEGE OF CONSTRUCTION KICKS OFF “INSPIRE CAREERS” FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

PORTLAND, OR – The Northwest College of Construction has kicked off its “Inspire Careers” fundraising campaign with \$76,000 already donated by industry leaders, and that’s not including the thousands of dollars of in-kind contributions. The college, the first of its kind in the Pacific Northwest, is part of an industry-generated solution to the ever-growing challenge of recruiting quality workers into construction careers.

While the baby boomers approach their retirement and fewer applicants enter into construction, the industry faces an unprecedented workforce shortage issue. With fewer and fewer schools offering any kind of technical, hands-on educational program, students receive little exposure to the crafts.

Contractors understand their best competitive advantage is their people. However, finding qualified workers to join their team is a challenging task. The college, with its mission of offering life long learning in craft, technical, supervisory and management education, offers a way to find and develop quality construction workers.

Several industry leaders have demonstrated their commitment to resolving the workforce problem by becoming a NWCC “Career Builder”. “Career Builders” is a designation given by the college for financial contributions. Jim Sly, vice president of Hamilton Construction, stated his reason for investing in the college, “*Apprenticeship and the NWCC concept represents a time honored system of adult education coupled with bold new ideas of drawing people into the crafts.*” Top sponsors currently include **R&H Construction**, *Career Builder Benefactor*, **Hamilton Construction**, **Moore Excavation** and **Staton Industries** as *Career Builder Champions*, and **Hunter Davisson**, **Cherokee General Corporation**, **Dupont/Tyvek**, **Yorke & Curtis** and **Daily Journal of Commerce** as *Career Builder Promoters*.

Additional early financial contributors of the college include *Career Builder Advocates*: **James E. John Construction**, **Madden Industrial Craftsmen, Inc.**, **Medallion Industries**, **Sly Farms**; and *Career Builder Friends*: **Vern & Susan Malen**, **James M. Fowler Company**, **Anchor Insurance & Surety Inc.**, **River Bend Sand & Gravel** and **Guy & Maureen Crawford**.

NWCC is a privately funded , non-profit, 501(c) 3 educational institution. To learn more about the college, including viewing a full schedule of class offerings, visit www.nwcoc.com, to take a tour of the campus or inquire about becoming a college sponsor, please contact Dan Graham at 503.256.7300.

The Northwest College of Construction opened for instruction in 2006 and is founded by the following trade associations: Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc. Pacific Northwest Chapter, Associated General Contractors Oregon Columbia Chapter, Home Builders Association of Metropolitan Portland and National Utility Contractors Association of Oregon and Southwest Washington.

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