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## WSCC Accomplishes Significant Milestones in Advancing Workforce Education

Denver, CO – In the last number of months, [Western States College of Construction](#) has made significant progress in advancing skilled trade education. Since the inception of the college in 2020, the WSCC team has established a partnership with the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) to develop the national standards for accrediting workforce education programs. At the same time, the WSCC team crafted the required curriculum to fill the four-credit hour gap between current apprenticeship education and the requirements for the Associate of Occupational Studies degree. Starting in March of this year, WSCC selected twenty exceptional apprenticeship graduates from HVACR, pipefitting, plumbing, and sheet metal disciplines to partake in the first Professionalism in Construction pilot program. The four-course series included sections on communication, leadership, presentation skills, implicit bias, emotional intelligence, conflict management and more. Students provided robust feedback after each course which has helped to drive revisions of course content as the WSCC team plans for full apprentice implementation. Students’ feedback has been instrumental in these revisions.

“This course was amazing. I don’t think in all 5 years of my apprenticeship I ever had a class where I got so involved in conversations and discussions that we’ve had, and I’m honored to have been a part of it,” said one of the pilot program graduates.

Another of the pilot program graduates added, “I feel like this was great. I can see this as a huge tool to use in the apprenticeship. Even if there is no degree involved, I would still implement this material because it is all very important to our industry.”

In addition to the successful completion of WSCC’s first pilot, the team applied for and acquired the [Opportunity Now Grant](#) to the tune of 3.3 million dollars. The funds will be used to make apprenticeship more accessible and improve overall apprenticeship completion rates. To accomplish this, WSCC will increase recruitment activities among youth who are preparing to graduate or who have recently graduated in diverse communities, provide robust instructor training, and re-establish the pre-apprenticeship program, Skilled Trades Education Program (STEP). These strategies will grow and strengthen the pipeline from secondary education into jobs with family-sustaining wages in plumbing, pipefitting, HVACR and sheet metal.

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The mission of WSCC is to become the symbol of educational excellence that fuels the success of our graduates, industry, and society. WSCC looks forward to continuing leading the way in advancing skilled trades education.