

THE CONSTRUCTION COLLEGE ADVANTAGE



WESTERN STATES
College of Construction

JULY | 2023

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WSCC Accomplishes Significant Milestones in Advancing Workforce Education

In the last number of months, **Western States College of Construction** has achieved 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 on Construction Education (ACCE) for accreditation and been crafting curriculum to fill the four-credit hour gap between current apprenticeship education and an associate of occupational studies degree. Starting in March of this year, WSCC selected twenty exceptional apprenticeship graduates from HVAC, 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 apart 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 amongst 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 school into jobs with family-sustaining wages in plumbing, pipefitting, HVACR, and sheet metal.

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 paving the way in advancing skilled trades education.



JOE HECKERS

Outstanding Apprentice

My name is Joe Heckers and I am a pipefitter apprentice out of Local 208. I chose this trade because I have always loved working with my hands and being able to see the final product being created out of raw materials. Coming from a blue-collar home, early on I learned about the good



benefits of working in the trades.

My favorite part of the program is the hands-on classes. It's also super interesting learning about why we do things in a certain way that were never apparent to me. I have worked with several journeymen who have had a positive impact on my learning experience. I can say that I learn something new from everyone I work with. It's awesome to learn different techniques and different approach angles. In 5 years, I see myself being a well-rounded journeyman who can execute any project for the contractor with high quality and efficiency.

In 10 years, I can see myself being in supervision and passing on the skills of the trade by teaching at the local hall.



I look up to Nikola Tesla. He pushed the boundaries of science, thought outside of the box and never gave up even when people doubted him.

In my free time I spend time with my 1-year-old daughter who is my world. I look forward to snowboarding and riding dirt bikes with her. My family also enjoys going on hikes and camping trips.

JAKE SCHAINOST

Outstanding Instructor

My name is Jake Schainost and I've been in the HVAC trade for 7 years, and am currently with Local 208.

I became an instructor, because it allows me to continue my own learning journey while enjoying imparting knowledge to others. I teach 1st aid and CPR.

My favorite subjects in school were science and shop classes. As an apprentice my favorite class was electrical and controls. My teaching philosophy values

students as capable individuals, treating them as adults and respecting their time. I hope I leave them better prepared to help in a medical emergency.

My dad was my inspiration. He was my chemistry and physics teacher. I think I got my desire to teach and any natural skill that I have to teach from him.

I have two young kids so I don't have much free time, but I really like hanging out with them, so it works out.



SETH GEBHARD

Outstanding Apprentice

My name is Seth and I am an apprentice with Plumber's Local 3. I chose my trade because of my family and wanting to be a part of building something bigger than me. My favorite part of my program is hands on learning and having mentors to push me to be better. All the journeymen and management I have worked for, as well as all my teachers have had a positive impact on my learning experience. Everyone wants to see your success and will give you what they have for you to do it.

In 5 to 10 years, I would love to be managing projects for my company, maybe even up to superintendent. I look up to everyone with more experience than me and I am inspired by my future opportunities.

In my free time I like to hunt, fish and work on anything with an engine.



CONTRACTOR HIGHLIGHT - MURPHY COMPANY

Murphy Company was founded in 1907 as John C. Murphy Plumbing Company in St. Louis, Missouri. After three decades of performing plumbing for residential and commercial clients, the company extended its services to offer pipefitting and HVAC. Through success and continuous growth, the company further expanded into the industrial and municipal markets, including process piping and equipment erection work.

To reflect the expanded business scope, the corporate name was changed to Murphy Company Mechanical Contractors and Engineers (dba Murphy Company).

Today, Murphy Company is a leading full-service mechanical contracting firm with over 100 years of experience, giving you a single source for all aspects of your mechanical and HVAC needs. Specializing in HVAC, plumbing, sheet metal, high purity, process

pipng, and refrigeration, our state-of-the-art fabrication facilities provide customers with superior quality control, increased productivity, cost savings, scheduling advantages, installation flexibility, and greater material inventory.

Murphy Company is a highly reputable firm who is proud to be consistently ranked in Engineering News Record's Top 600 Specialty Contractors list.





BRADLEY CLARK

Outstanding Apprentice

My name is Bradley and I am a sheet metal worker apprentice with Local 9 in Denver, CO. I chose my current trade because I had friends and family in the trade.

My favorite part of the program is learning new things. Nick Torres and Jared Leblanc have had a positive impact on my learning experience. They have always believed in me and allowed me to grow both with help from them and on my own.

In 5 years, I will be turned out and working as a journeyman, learning more. In 10 years, I want to be a project manager.

I look up to my foreman, Jared. I aspire to have the knowledge that he has.

My family inspires and motivates me to get up every day—in rain or snow, to be the best man I can be for them.



Summer Health & Wellness Tips

These Summer health tips are not meant to be the end all be all to staying well during summer work and fun, but they'll help get you going and keep your health on track so that you can enjoy a long healthy summer with friends and family.

1. Stay Hydrated – drink plenty of water.
2. Get Outside and Get Some Vitamin D.
3. Sunscreen It Up
4. Eat In–Seasonal Summer Produce – watermelon, corn-on-the-cob, peaches, cherries, squash and more!
5. Move Your Body.
6. Unplug – summer is the perfect time to slow down, unplug and take a break.
7. Spend Quality Time – spend time gathering with friends and family.



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

United States Air Force Academy Field House Renovation

Colorado Sheet Metal has been awarded and is currently working on the Phase 3 Renovation of the United States Air Force Academy Field House located in Colorado Springs. The project started in early 2023, and is expected to be completed in the fall of 2024.

Starting in the summer of 2023, CSM will replace all of the ducts above the ice rink and basketball arena moving into the track and field area once hockey and basketball seasons start for the USAFA. Over 5,000 feet of round ductwork ranging from 30" to 48" will be installed. There will also be 12) 14 foot diameter fans installed to circulate air and provide a more consistent environment. The

challenge facing the sheetmetal workers is access. Some of the duct is over 70ft above the track as well being located above the arena's.



A hanging scaffolding system has been constructed that is supported from the roof structure to provide a working platform in which another scaffold can be constructed to reach the ductwork.

During the Summer of 2024, 19 air handling units and 14 exhaust fans will be replaced on

the cat walk system above the arena's and track. They will be tied into the new ductwork system. Once completed the system will be more energy efficient, quieter, and provide a more suitable environment for the athletes and spectators. Fun fact is the owner of CSM is a 3rd generation sheet metal worker and it was his father that worked on the crew that originally installed the existing ductwork in the 1970's.



ANDRE WHITEHAIR HARDYWAY

Outstanding Instructor

I am a Sheetmetal Detailer with SMART Local 9. I wanted to become an instructor because I enjoy helping others learn and want to assist in the growth and strength of our Union.

I teach math for our first year apprentices and sprinkle in some Union history. Math and the sciences were always my favorite subjects in school and I enjoy being able to share that enjoyment of math with the students that walk through our doors.

Everyone has potential—sometimes it takes more time or a different method to reach it.

I try to encourage our students to tackle the curriculum, even if they aren't confident in their skills. Every semester there are students who didn't feel great about math in school and I try to assure them in their ability to grasp the material and push them to show some grace to themselves as they take on subject matter that isn't the easiest for everyone to understand.



My inspiration were all of my previous teachers and professors that tackled the job with enthusiasm. Teaching isn't everyone's cup of tea, so to show up and pour your knowledge into others with a smile is huge.

In my free time I like to cook as well as make music with my band.

WSSC CARES

Awarding Outstanding Leaders

The Tom McMahon Construction Scholarship Fund was established in 2005 by family and friends who suffered a tremendous loss when Tom passed away as the result of pancreatic cancer.



To this year's recipients, we would like to express that the over and above leadership skills and passion that you have displayed amongst your peers and instructors is exactly the way



Left to right: Eric Ortega, 2023 Scholarship Recipient—Zechariah Lucero, Shelley McMahon, and Joe Peneton

Tom lived every day. He made sure that he always upheld a respect level for all people. He was not afraid to share his knowledge and felt that it only made his worth more valuable.

Shelley McMahon, Tom's wife, works for Murphy Company, one of WSSC's supporting contractors.



Left to right: Eric Ortega, 2023 Scholarship Recipient—Jessica Varney, Shelley McMahon, and Joe Peneton

Through her foundation, Shelley awarded \$1,000 scholarships to two outstanding leader apprentices at Pipefitters Local 208. Her dedication to the future of our industry is outstanding and deserves much praise under WSSC Cares highlight.

WSSC Invites You To Submit Stories For Our Fall Newsletter Publication

- Outstanding Apprentice Highlight
- Outstanding Instructor Highlight
- Contractor Highlight
- Project Highlight
- WSSC Cares Highlight

Please contact Jordyn Grote at jordyn@westernstatescollege.org for information.

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