

News Release



Virginia Chapter

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Combating the Construction Workforce Shortage

NORFOLK, VA, August 9, 2019 – It's no secret that the Construction Industry is facing a workforce shortage – one that is expected to reach one million workers by 2020. To combat this shortage, Associated Builders and Contractors Virginia Chapter ("ABC-VA") offers high school graduates a five-week training program that will prepare students for a career in construction.



Figure 1 – 2019 ABC-VA Summer Core Program Graduates

For the second year in a row, the Hampton Roads region of ABC-VA offered their [Summer Core Program](#) with 17 students graduating. The program is based on the NCCER Core Curriculum, which is a 100-hour program with nine learning modules covering aspects of basic construction skills, jobsite tours, OSHA 10-Hour training, First Aid, CPR & AED training, and interviewing and employability techniques. Upon completion of the program, students are given the opportunity to interview for full-time employment with one of ABC-VA's member companies.

"I interviewed six of the students and was very impressed. They all did very well and presented themselves professionally even though many of them said this was their first interview, ever. I think your summer program has prepared them well. They all seemed to be confident in choosing the construction industry to begin their careers", said Chris Stewart, Vice President, REW Corporation.

"I'm personally grateful for the opportunity to be part of this program. I wanted this program to succeed as I know it was a fantastic opportunity for workforce bound students post high school and a win for ABC-VA contractor members to have the chance to hire these students with the training they've received", said Jamie Carrow, ABC-VA Hampton Roads Member Services & Education Director.

This year, over 20 companies participated in ABC-VA's Summer Core Program:

Ken Baker, ABC-VA and Norfolk Public Schools Instructor
Bill Johnson, ARGO Systems, LLC
Geoff Bambini, Asturian Group, Inc.
Rhonda Bridgeman and Ashley Shelburne, Comfort Systems of Virginia, Inc.
Alphonso Cooper, Diamond Glazing, Inc.
Dion Parenti, DEWALT
J.R. Locke, EdLogics
Shane Baird, Hampton Roads Fastener & Construction Supply
Eric Stichler, Heartland Construction, Inc.
Dave Thompson, Henderson, Inc.
Tim Knowles, Hilti
Cameron Guthrie, Ideal Industries, Inc.
Cary Fowler, J. C. Driskill, Inc.
Mike Gesick, MTS Refrigeration
Stan Dutko, OSHA Area Director
Dalton Davidson, Power Electric Co.
Sean Jennings, Region Rents Sales & Service
Chris Stewart, REW Corporation
Cindi Hechinger and Team, Taylor Made Diagnostics, Inc.
Cebert White, The GovCon Group
Aaron Rouse, Virginia Beach City Council
Cecil Ward, W. C. Carpenter, LLC

ABC Virginia looks forward to running the program again in 2020.

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About Associated Builders and Contractors: The Virginia Chapter of ABC represent the interests of nearly 1,000 contractors, specialty contractors, and suppliers throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia that supports and believes in the principles of merit shop construction and open competition. Merit Shop is a way of doing business in which companies' reward employees based on performance and encourage them to reach their highest level of achievement, and in which contracts are awarded based on safety, quality, and value, regardless of labor affiliation. An open marketplace creates efficient, cost-competitive projects, safe work sites, comparable wages and workforce training. For more information, visit our website at www.abcva.org. Follow us on Twitter [@ABCVA](https://twitter.com/ABCVA).