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CT ABC Develops Nonprofit Training Organization

--Construction Education Center, Inc. Provides Training Programs for Apprentices and Trade Professionals --

ROCKY HILL, CONN., (October 25, 2006) – The Connecticut construction industry has a new resource for apprentice training, safety training and other professional development courses: The Construction Education Center, Inc. (CEC).

Launched by the Connecticut Associated Builders and Contractors, this new non-profit organization was created to meet the training needs of contractors in Connecticut. Much of the curriculum used in the courses offered by the CEC will follow the construction trade curriculum developed by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). This curriculum, and the apprenticeship training program, is approved by the Connecticut Department of Education's Vocational Division requirements. These steps ensure the CEC will provide relevant training for Connecticut registered apprentices.

All courses provided by the CEC are instructed by tradesmen, professionals and/or professors of construction management programs. In addition to apprenticeship safety courses, The CEC will provide professional development courses including Plan Reading, Site Layout, Site Estimating, Supervisory Training and Planning and Scheduling. The center is also an approved provider of Continuing Education courses (CEUs) by the state of Connecticut for Licensed Plumbers and Electricians.

“The Construction Education Center is a tool for contractors and their employees to continue to meet the ever-challenging demands of running a profitable, professional, construction company,” Patricia Torres Lewis, education director of the CEC, said. “This is just one more way ABC has proactively helped the industry tackle crucial issues while building a better workforce.”

CT ABC had been involved with training member employees for over seven years. Originally, the association provided and assisted companies with training programs such as carpentry, masonry and insulation. In recent years, the program grew to incorporate mechanical apprenticeship programs in sheet metal and HVAC. The CEC will continue the established practices while run under CT ABC, which includes the management of existing programs and the development of additional courses.

“It is very rewarding to see this Center launched – and welcomed – by contractors in Connecticut,” Paul Gray, chairman of the CEC board of directors, and senior vice president at EMCOR Services/New England Mechanical in Vernon, Conn. “We have been very deliberate in how we organized the CEC, being sure to address today’s pressing needs as well as to keep an eye on the future. Anyone seeking to start or advance a career in the construction industry now has a first-rate resource in their back yard.”

In addition to participating in a bona fide apprenticeship program, students enrolled in the apprenticeship/craft training courses will also become part of the NCCER’s national database of skilled workers. This will be helpful to workers who may relocate outside of Connecticut.

“We refer to our program as ‘construction training by contractors for contractors,’” explains Torres-Lewis. “Everything we do is designed to give open shop contractors the option to send their apprentices to a quality program.”

The Center provides training at a discount to CT ABC member employees, but training is also available to non-members. This helps many smaller contractors that are not candidates for ABC membership, but still have a need to train their employees.

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The Construction Education Center, Inc. is a nonprofit training organization located in Rocky Hill Connecticut. CT ABC is the sole member of the organization.