

# CISCO

## CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

Construction Industry Service Corporation - [www.cisco.org](http://www.cisco.org) - 630.472.9411 - Dan Allen, Executive Director

### PLUMBERS LOCAL 130 SHOWCASED ON "CONSTRUCTION TALKS" SERIES

August's edition of "Construction Talks" showcased the Plumbers Local 130 Apprenticeship Program. Local 130's Apprenticeship Training Director Jim Majerowicz and Instructor Frank Borkowski were featured along with CISCO's Dan Allen and Johnetta Ryan.



Local 130's Training Director Jim Majerowicz shows a training room dedicated to faucets as the CTA's Chynna Hampton listens in during last week's Construction Talks webinar.

Several first and third-year apprentices were interviewed and a thorough tour of the Plumbers recently built, now three-year-old Training Center was provided to all who registered for the webinar, which was aired on Friday, August 21st.

### NEW WEB PAGE CREATED FOR BUILDING TRADES VIDEOS



The COVID-19 crisis presented CISCO with an opportunity to use technology in order to practice safe distancing – and still carry out our goal of making adults and students aware of the construction industry as a career.

CISCO teamed up with the Chicago Transit Authority to create videos in order to show various audiences a glimpse into the life of the skilled trades.

A series of webinars called "Construction Talks" are highlighting various building trades such as carpenters, electricians, roofers, bricklayers, plumbers, etc. Zoom interviews with instructors/ apprenticeship coordinators are being recorded and used to promote the trade and explain how to apply to the apprentice program. You can access these videos at [www.cisco.org/buildingtradesvideos/](http://www.cisco.org/buildingtradesvideos/)

### ST. PAUL/CISCO TEAMWORK ALLOWS 369 RESIDENTS TO RECEIVE FREE COVID-19 TESTS

Exactly 369 residents of Chicago received FREE COVID-19 tests on Monday, August 17th from 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Participants had the option of either walking up or driving up to go through the 5-minute test procedure.



A staff member from CORE retrieves a swab sample from one of the many drive-in participants.

Joining St. Paul and CISCO in coordinating the event, were members of CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort), which conducted the testing and provided results to participants within 48 hours.

"The event was a huge success as the turnout was incredible," said Dan Allen, CISCO Executive Director. "Assisting St. Paul with such a community service was inspiring."

### APPLICATIONS COMING SOON FOR SCHOLARSHIPS/TOP PROJECTS



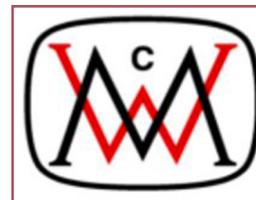
CISCO will soon be launching two long-standing programs - The Annual Scholarship

Awards, as well as its Project of the Year Award. By the end of next week, applications for both programs will be available via the web - [www.cisco.org](http://www.cisco.org).

There are three different scholarship program categories: 1) Four-year college scholarships for high school seniors; 2) Two-year awards for seniors planning on attending a community college; and 3) Two-year continuing education awards to union members or contractor employees.

Project of the Year submissions are available in six categories that include new construction, renovation, residential, and infrastructure projects. For more information, call (630) 472-9411.

### McWILLIAMS ELECTRIC RECOGNIZED



McWilliams Electric has been recognized by NECA for the Safety

Excellence and Zero Injury awards.

The Zero-Injury recognizes those member-companies that have worked a full calendar year without recordable incidents. The Safety Excellence is the association's premier recognition program, and acknowledges member-contractors safety performance.

*More news and photos on the back page.*

# CISCO ON THE MOVE

## PLUMBING CONTRACTOR DOES GOOD DEED FOR CISCO PARTNER

Chicago's very own John Baethke & Son Plumbing heard about Gateway To Learning's need for a drinking fountain that was more COVID-19 friendly - a fountain with a bottle filler accessory.



From left: Baethke's Danny O'Connor and Yuriy Striltschuck and Gateway to Learning's John Ratzenberger.

Gateway to Learning (GTL) is a Chicago-based special education and training center that provides services for individuals with intellectual disabilities, in order for them to reach their full potential.



Yuriy Striltschuck (left) measures the back of the new fountain while co-worker Danny O'Connor looks on.

So Baethke & Son Plumbing lent a helping hand to the organization and installed the specific water fountain at the GTL facility.

"It was not just a water fountain," said John Ratzenberger, Director of Advancement at Gateway to Learning. "It provides a safer method of obtaining drinking water."

"With COVID-19, we couldn't use a standard water fountain and we needed to purchase a fountain with the bottle-filler style and install it at a height that made it wheelchair accessible."

## CBC OFFERS WEBINAR: "THE FUTURE OF WORK IN CONSTRUCTION"



CISCO's Dan Allen will be a panelist for a September 16th webinar hosted by the Chicago Building Congress from noon to 1:30 pm.

The webinar is part of *The Future of Work* series, and this webinar will focus on "Leveraging Technology for Safer Built Environments in the COVID-19 Era".

There is a reduced fee for this virtual event and registration required. CBC members fee is \$15, while non-members is \$25.

To register go to [www.chicagobuildingcongress.org](http://www.chicagobuildingcongress.org).

### LEGISLATIVE NEWS



CISCO joined forces with the Underground Contractors Association and other organizations to support a Comprehensive Infrastructure Capital Development Program as part of written testimony for a recent City of Chicago hearing of the Economic, Capital and Technological Development Committee.

In a letter of support to Chairman/Alderman Gilbert Villegas, CISCO touted program positives: 1) bolsters life safety functions related to critical water/wastewater systems; 2) provides a more reliable infrastructure plan; and 3) creates career pathways for young people from underserved communities via opportunities in construction-related areas.

## Legislative Victories = Job Growth

Recent legislative successes involving tax exemptions for new large data centers in Illinois have already reaped benefits as Chicago has taken the 4th spot in a recent global data center study.

Increasingly, Chicago is being recognized for its capacity - and suitability - for data centers.

"Chicago has always benefited from being a key connectivity hub in the middle of the country, and we've definitely seen a recent boost over the past year with the announcement of incentives available for the data center industry from the state of Illinois," said Alex Smith with Cushman & Wakefield in Chicago.



Construction continues on a new T5 Data Centers facility in Elk Grove Village.

"We can attribute this news to important legislative initiatives and victories that our Legislative Committee worked tirelessly to achieve," said Dan Allen.

Allen said contractor associations, building trades and other employer associations helped pass several key bills such as the Safe Roads Amendment, graduated gas tax for construction, prevailing wage protection and the reinstatement of statewide PLAs.

All the work, the letters, and the relationship-building reap results in the form of union construction jobs.

