



CISCO

CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

Construction Industry Service Corporation - www.cisco.org - 630.472.9411 - Dan Allen, Executive Director

CISCO SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS TO BE HONORED DURING LUNCHEON



The winners of CISCO's 2017 Scholarship Program were notified this week as final

determination of the recipients was made official.

The 4-year scholarship winners are:

1) **Camille Paddock** - Huntley High School - Camille's father is a member of Operating Engineers Local 150;

2) **James Shanahan** - Lyons Township High School - James' father is affiliated with Carpenters Local 1; and

3) **Paige Thiel** - Prospect High School - Paige's mother is affiliated with G.W. Thiel, Inc.

The 2-year scholarship winners are:

1) **Kiana Gleason** - Willowbrook High School - Kiana's father is a member of BAC Local 21 Tilesetters & Finishers; and

2) **Rachel Carroll** - Pontiac Township High School - Rachel's father is a member of Operating Engineers Local 150.

Congratulations to this year's winners who will be formally recognized at this year's Annual Luncheon on Friday, April 21.

CISCO'S DAN ALLEN LEADS CHOOSE DUPAGE PANEL DISCUSSION

CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen, who serves on the Choose DuPage Board of Directors and was recently appointed as Chairman of the organization's Workforce Committee, led a panel discussion at the College of DuPage (COD) on March 24 on the topic of "DuPage Metals and Machinery Manufacturing: Talent Development and Retention in DuPage County."

Two different panels discussed the challenges companies face in keeping DuPage County a world-class manufacturing center. Ways to support the existing talent, further development, and maintain retention of these types of manufacturing companies in the region, were mentioned by a variety of current leaders of the local manufacturing landscape.

CISCO's ongoing approach to curbing the construction labor shortage here in northeastern Illinois has been well-documented. Through CISCO's educational outreach, job shadow events, hands-on expos and the collaborative efforts of building trades and contractors; awareness of careers in the construction industry is helping the union apprenticeship programs thrive.



Dan Allen moderates panel discussion during today's Choose DuPage event.

Dan Allen introduced COD President Ann Rondeau and mentioned that union contractors and skilled tradesmen built many of the campus buildings.

Later, he compared the success of the construction industry's apprenticeship programs to the recent push for manufacturing companies to utilize the same model in order to attract and retain a skilled workforce.

LUNCHEON SOLD OUT FOR CHICAGO MAYOR - APRIL 21, 2017

CISCO members and supporters have sold out this year's Annual



Luncheon in anticipation of hearing Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel, who was announced last month as the scheduled speaker at this

year's event, set for Friday, April 21.

NOTE: This year's luncheon will be held at Maggiano's Little Italy Chicago at 516 North Clark Street.

Registration begins at 11:00 am with the Lunch/Program starting at Noon.

"There was tremendous interest in the year's event due to having Chicago's Mayor as the keynote speaker," said CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen. "With so much construction occurring in Chicago and the surrounding suburbs, our members are looking forward to hearing more about future projects."

Your organization can still be a sponsor of the luncheon. The cost to sponsor the event is \$250. Your company's name will be listed in the program, shown prominently during the event, and mentioned during luncheon remarks.

In addition to Mayor Emanuel's Keynote Address, the 2017 Scholarship Award recipients will be honored at the Luncheon. We look forward to seeing our registered guests there!

More news and photos on the back page.

CISCO ON THE MOVE

CISCO PARTNER TECH CENTER OF DUPAGE HELPING TO BRIDGE STEM SKILLS GAP

In the past, when CISCO organizes a Hands-On Expo in DuPage County, often times, instructors from the Tech Center of DuPage (TCD) will be on hand, along with apprenticeship coordinators from many of the building trades, to demonstrate various construction-related techniques aimed at making students more aware of a career in the trades.

A recent article in the Daily Herald highlighted a few of the success stories that have come out of the TCD construction trades program. The following excerpts are courtesy of the Daily Herald.

As a high school junior, Jose Ortiz was struggling in math and language arts classes. A school counselor suggested to Ortiz to enroll in the TCD program as an elective. The program's emphasis is on carpentry, but also introduces students to electrical, plumbing, drywall and other build trades skills.

Today, Ortiz is a project manager for Cicero's Development Corporation in Plainfield (see photo below).



"Academic skills are huge in the construction industry," Ortiz said. "Everything from math, communication skills and problem-solving as a team are very important."

Vince Sticca, Director of the Apprenticeship Training Program for the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters (CRCC), sums it up this

way: "There is not one thing you do during the day in construction that does not involve math."

When asked why more high school graduates aren't applying to apprenticeship programs, Sticca cites the scarcity of high school programs like TCD's construction and welding programs, which prepare students for apprenticeships or related community college programs.

He also noted a lack of understanding among students and school counselors regarding the breadth of the industry's career pathways, its academic requirements, and the long-term economic benefits of an apprenticeship.



Jerry Presley, a senior at Lyons Twp. High School, uses a carpenter's square to mark out the cuts. Presley is in the construction trades program at TCD.

To address the shortage of skilled young workers in an industry with increasing retirements, CRCC teamed up with CISCO last fall to host "Educator Days." Seventy-five high school counselors and teachers spent two days experiencing hands-on construction projects, employing the technical math skills necessary to succeed in the building trades.

The Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters is proactive in addressing the issue of math proficiency. Because an exam is required prior to acceptance into an apprenticeship program, the CRCC offers math refresher classes at no cost to applicants.

The instructional staff members at Technology Center of DuPage have proactively enhanced the academic skills inherent in each program's curriculum.



Tech Center of DuPage instructor Steve Cervenka demonstrates use of a thermal imaging camera for HVAC.

The past three years, two-thirds of seniors rated their TCD program "excellent or good" for strengthening their academic abilities in math, reading and science.

Jose Ortiz agrees: "The TCD program hands you all the tools you need to succeed."

Editor's note: Photos of Mr. Ortiz and Mr. Presley courtesy of the Tech Center of DuPage. Excerpts of article courtesy of the Daily Herald.

INDUSTRY EVENT UPDATE

The Underground Contractors Association is hosting their Annual Spring Showcase on Wednesday, April 19th from 3:30 - 8:00 p.m. at Venuti's in Addison.

To register, go to the UCA website - www.uca.org, or call the UCA offices at (630) 467-1919.

