



# CISCO

## CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

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

### PIPEFITTERS LOCAL #597 RECEIVES SPOTLIGHT TREATMENT

The first "Construction Talks" episode of 2021 (and 6th overall) co-coordinated by the Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) and CISCO brought another captive audience of students and adults last Friday.

Moderated by CTA Coordinator of Workforce Initiatives Sam Hunt that featured panelists Adam Sutter, Local #597 Admissions Director and CISCO's Executive Director Dan Allen, the hour-long virtual seminar was highlighted by a 15-minute video produced by the CTA's Marc Buhmann. The webinar included interviews with current apprentices, a question and answer session, and helpful descriptions about the Pipefitters Apprenticeship Program and how to apply and what to expect.



*Pipefitters Local #597 Admissions Director Adam Sutter answers questions from online participants.*

When describing what he is looking for from interested candidates, Sutter explained that even though it isn't necessary, what separates an applicant from the pack is someone who brings some skills to the table such as welding, math, layout, measuring, fabrication and assembling.

"I like to see desire, interest, commitment, work ethic, and attendance," he added. "I'm looking for people who will be the right fit."

### APPRENTICE INTERVIEWS

Several current apprentices were interviewed as part of the video - **Ebony Simpson, Todd Maloy** and **Colleen McConnell**. Each were asked about their previous experience and how they liked the apprenticeship training to date.

**Ebony** said that prior experience is not needed; she didn't have any idea what the pipefitter profession was all about when she applied.



"A friend told me about the program, and I had no clue what a pipefitter did," she said. "Now I know that the profession does so much more than just welding, and previous mechanical experience is good."

**Todd** added that he loves working with his hands and in the field. "I have been able to further myself within the trade and have been earning valuable experience."



"The experience that I have acquired at 597 has been fantastic; very good. I hope to build a career out of it," he added.



"I was a bank teller and a server/bartender," **Colleen** said. "The hands on work here is so much more

rewarding. I'm with a good group of people that I like and am having fun everyday."

About being a female in a male-dominated job, Colleen added, "It's great working with the guys. As long as you do the work, they are going to have your back no matter what."



*Adam Sutter (left) and CISCO's Dan Allen add their perspective during the on-line webinar.*

In his concluding remarks, Adam stated that "The trades are a huge brotherhood and sisterhood. You are working on the same goal to get the job done and get it done right the first time. The men and women in the trades take pride in what they do and they do it together."

Dan added, "We heard how Ebony has been embraced by her bothers and sisters. Apprentices train more hours than a person who earns a bachelor's degree; you get paid and you get paid well. Your journeyman/woman mentor wants to see you safe and successful, and wants to see you take over as the next generation. There is pride and collaboration in the trades. Diversity in the trades is our strength, and it's only increasing."

*More news and photos on the back page.*

# CISCO ON THE MOVE

## 2ND ANNUAL STATE OF DUPAGE COUNTY SUMMIT

CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen was one of the panelists in the 2nd Annual State of DuPage County Summit on Friday, February 26, 2021 from 9 - 11 am. The virtual event was split into two sessions: The first focused on the state of office, industrial, retail and multi-family housing, while the second featured a look at development, tech infrastructure, clean energy financing, data centers and construction.



*Executive Director Dan Allen talks about training centers during the 2nd Annual DuPage County Summit.*

The second one-hour session was moderated by Karyn Charvat, Executive Director for PowerForward DuPage. Panelists followed by highlighting their specialties in development that included data centers, clean energy and technical infrastructure.

Dan Allen said the Chicago area has seen a record surge of new data center construction. He attributed this to the passage of legislation supported by the CISCO Legislative Committee that provided tax credits for these centers.

Dan stated how imperative it was that Chicago and DuPage County have access to the highest-skilled, trained union workforce in the country, right here in northeastern Illinois.

“The apprenticeship training centers in the DuPage region are the big drivers of economic development on all construction levels such as high-tech and clean energy; and our trades are 2nd largest privately-funded educational system in the nation.”

## ILEPI FUNDRAISER ENJOYS SUCCESSFUL VIRTUAL EVENT

The Illinois Economic Policy Institute’s 4th Annual Fundraiser was a “virtual” success as attendees heard from Board Member Marc Poulos and Policy Director Frank Manzo IV on Monday, February 22nd.



*ILEPI Board Member Marc Poulos (left) and Policy Director Frank Manzo IV appear during its fundraiser.*

During Manzo’s presentation, he underscored ILEPI’s research that sought to understand and measure the impacts of the pandemic, including the impact on motor fuel tax revenue and other Rebuild Illinois funding sources.

## COLLABORATIVE HIRING EVENT HELPS UNEMPLOYED WORKERS

Current union card holders who are looking for work in the construction industry were able to take part in a virtual hiring event on February 18th.



*During the event, the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership described their services and programs.*

Along with CISCO, many of its partners helped organize and promote the event: The Chicago Transit Authority (in conjunction with its Red and Purple Modernization Program), Trinal, HIRE 360, the Chicago Cook Workforce Partnership and Walsh Fluor Design-Build Team.

## NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE NEWS

CISCO applauds the Biden Administration for rescinding the previous administration’s Executive Order that created the framework for industry-recognized apprenticeship programs (IRAPs).

Campaigns were launched against the U.S. Department of Labor’s (USDOL) proposed regulations governing industry-recognized apprenticeship programs. Those regulations, which were sought by anti-union contractors, would have lowered industry standards and undermined investments in training and apprenticeship programs.

Apprenticeship programs produce the highest skilled, safest, most productive workers in the world who deliver projects on time and under-budget. In some instances, workers are trained with more hours than persons who complete a bachelor’s degree. They are also less likely to be injured or lose their life on the job.

As a result of over 300,000 comments sent to the USDOL, the industry was successful in exempting construction from the final IRAP regulations, thanks to President Biden, who strengthened registered apprenticeship programs.

## WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK MARCH 7 - 13, 2021



Don’t forget to celebrate Women in Construction Week (March 7 - 13, 2021) and recognize the contributions that women have made to the construction industry.

