

# CISCO

## CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

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

### CISCO, CARPENTERS, III-FFC HOLD PREVAILING WAGE SEMINAR

About 175 people consisting of building trades representatives, contractors and public body employees attended, in mid-May, a prevailing wage seminar at the Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Center in Elk Grove Village.



*Josh Weger, Policy Director, III-FFC, addresses the audience on Responsible Bidder Ordinances.*

The seminar also focused on Responsible Bidder Ordinances (RBO) and their value to taxpayers across the country and here in Illinois.

Josh Weger, Policy Director for the Indiana-Illinois-Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting was the first speaker and his message to the procurement officers and other representatives of public bodies in the audience was that you don't have to choose the lowest bidder on a construction project.

He said that state law defines what a responsible bidder is, but on the local level, responsible is not spelled out. In his presentation he said that an RBO is "an opportunity for local government to define what a responsible bidder looks like and spell that out (in their ordinance), and fill that gaping hole in the state law."

Josh added that a properly written RBO provides "verifiable standards and objective criteria for which bidders must comply.

In essence, he said, the criteria serves as an insurance policy for municipalities and other public bodies to protect taxpayers in the allocation of precious tax dollars for construction projects in their jurisdictions.

### PREVAILING WAGE

The next speakers were Frank Manzo IV, Policy Director for the Illinois Economic Policy Institute, and Prof. Bob Bruno, Director of Labor Education Programs for the University of Illinois.



Frank Manzo's presentation regarding prevailing wage had five specific takeaways:

- 1) Levels the playing field for construction and strengthens the economy;
- 2) Boosts worker productivity and improves worksite safety;
- 3) Promotes ladders of access into the U.S. middle class;
- 4) Is the best value for taxpayers; and
- 5) Helps build quality infrastructure and strong communities in Illinois.

Professor Bob Bruno was the next speaker, and began with the premise that "The health of all nations is a direct function of its government and its economy."

He said that a common myth was that wealth and prosperity come from little or no regulation. But what he went on to state was that laws and regulations such as prevailing wage are integral to the success of the workforce, and specifically to the middle class, as it provides a livable wage for construction workers.



*Prof. Bob Bruno discusses prevailing wage and its impact on the middle class.*

### DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

The final presentation was from Michael Kleinik, newly named Director of the Department of Labor, and Doris Acevedo, Labor Conciliator.

When Gov. Pritzker recently signed SB 203 into law, it established a statewide method to determine the prevailing wage in all Illinois counties based on 30% of the collectively bargained rates in the county.



Two byproducts of the new law provided good news for local governments: 1) As

of June 1, 2019, local jurisdictions would no longer be required to pass an annual Prevailing Wage Ordinance (they will still be required to pay



prevailing wage rates), and 2) As of April 1, 2020, public bodies will no longer be required to save certified payroll

forms as contractors will be filing those forms electronically.

To contact the Department of Labor, call (217) 782-1710 or visit [www.labor.illinois.gov](http://www.labor.illinois.gov).

*More news and photos on the back page.*

# CISCO ON THE MOVE

## IRISH-AMERICAN LABOR COUNCIL HONORS JIM ALLEN, TIM MCCARTHY

The Irish-American Labor Council (IALC) honored both CISCO Board Member Jim Allen and Orland Park Police Chief Tim McCarthy. Allen is the President of the Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers Administrative District Council #1, and McCarthy is best known for saving President Ronald Reagan's life by taking a bullet from would-be assassin John Hinckley, becoming the only Secret Service agent to be shot in the line of duty.

The Award is given in honor of James Connolly, an Irish rebel leader who fought for workers' rights and paid with his life - executed in 1916.



*Jim Allen (left) accepts the award with his wife, Lynn, and Kevin Farley, IALC Secretary-Treasurer.*

During Allen's remarks, he compared what labor leaders do every day to what James Connolly did.

"All of us in the labor movement fight each and every day. We fight for better wages, better healthcare, better working conditions, better pensions. We fight politicians who destroy us with damaging legislation, and we fight non-union contractors who destroy the standard of living that many of our members have bled and died for."

In conclusion, Allen quoted Mother Jones, who was an Irish-born, American labor and community organizer. "She said to mourn the dead, and fight like hell for the living - that's what we in the labor movement will continue to do," he said.

McCarthy was introduced by former Orland Park Mayor and current CISCO Board Member Dan McLaughlin.

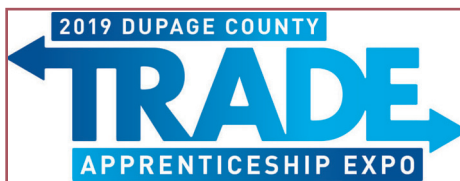


*CISCO Board Member Dan McLaughlin introduces Tim McCarthy (right) prior to his acceptance speech.*

McCarthy also thanked the Irish-American Labor Council for the distinguished award, and praised the labor movement for sticking together as a family and compared that unity to commitment and brotherhood that exists in law enforcement.

## DUPAGE COUNTY APPRENTICESHIP EXPO - MAY 30, 2019

CISCO will be teaming up for the second consecutive year with the DuPage County Building Trades and PowerForward DuPage – who will host the event – on a DuPage County Apprenticeship Expo Thursday, May 30, from 3:30 – 6:30 p.m. at IBEW Local 701 Hall, 28600 Bella Vista Parkway, Warrenville, IL, 60555.



Several different trades will be on hand to educate students, parents and adults about a career in the union construction industry. In addition, instructors will have an interactive demonstration of each craft, and will provide information on the application process, wages and benefits. **Register now: <https://powerforwarddupage.com/registration/>**

## 4TH WARD JOB & CAREER RESOURCE FAIR

CISCO will be teaming up with representatives of the 4th Ward and Alderman Sophia King for a Job & Career Resource Fair on Wednesday, May 22nd from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the IBEW Local 134 Hall, 2722 S. Martin Luther King Drive in Chicago.

For more information and to register, contact Charles Townsend: [charles.townsend@eesforjobs.com](mailto:charles.townsend@eesforjobs.com). Registration is free.

## CONSTRUCTION SAFETY COUNCIL OFFERS UPCOMING CLASSES

The Construction Safety Council (CSC) has announced three classes in the upcoming three weeks:

- 1) OSHA #2055 - Cranes in Construction - May 21st / 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 2) The Silica Construction Standard & Exposure Control Plan - May 22nd / 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
- 3) OSHA #7400 - Noise in the Construction Industry - June 4th / 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

For more information, contact the CSC at (708) 449-8600 or register by visiting <https://buildsafe.org>.

## EVACUATION SAFETY AWARENESS

The Great Lakes Construction Association is offering a class titled: "Evacuation safety Awareness" on Thursday, June 6th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon at 1850 W. Winchester Road #111, Libertyville, IL 60048.

The fee for the class is \$25 per person. The class is designed to educate workers about the hazards associated with trenching and excavation work. To register, email [cheryl@greatlakesca.org](mailto:cheryl@greatlakesca.org).

