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Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges to Announce Unique Apprenticeship-Ready Partnership with TradesFutures

The [Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges](#) (PACCC), representing the Commonwealth's 15 community colleges, is partnering with [TradesFutures](#), a non-profit 501(c)3 organization established by North America's Building Trades Unions and industry partners, to implement the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (M3C) and apprenticeship readiness program model. TradesFutures is dedicated to expanding pathways to union apprenticeships and family-sustaining construction careers, remove barriers for underrepresented communities, and championing proven practices that work. Their MC3 curriculum is a building and construction trades pre-apprenticeship program registered with the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry.

A memorandum of understanding agreement will be signed by PACCC and TradesFutures officials on May 6 -- National Skilled Trades Day -- at the Pennsylvania Manufacturers' Association at 225 State Street, Harrisburg, in the First Floor Conference Room. Doors open at 9 AM with the ceremony beginning at 9:30 AM. Various state dignitaries as well as community college presidents will attend the event.

"Our curriculum and the Apprenticeship Readiness Program model is a proven strategy to connect participants to high quality skilled trades careers," said Marina Zavoronkova, Executive Director of TradesFutures. "TradesFutures and its network of union and industry partners are excited to support the development of this initiative -- a first-of-its-kind, state-wide partnership to implement the MC3 across an entire community college sector."

"This collaboration between our community colleges and TradesFutures will give many men and women access to careers in the building trades. By utilizing the MC3 curriculum, they will have a great foundation on which to build and further their careers," said Robert S. Bair, President, PA State Building Trades.

"The signing of the agreement with TradesFutures underscores our commitment to advancing workforce development across the Commonwealth through the PA Works! initiative," said Dr. Quintin Bullock, President of the Community College of Allegheny County and Chair of the Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges Board. "This partnership reflects the strength of our statewide workforce development strategy, PA Works! Pennsylvania's community colleges are moving forward together in a coordinated effort to meet the evolving needs of our workforce."

The Pennsylvania Department of Education and the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry project that by 2030 Pennsylvania will need 300,000 skilled trade workers in high demand industry sectors of energy, technology, manufacturing, and healthcare. Within the next decade, labor reports reflect the likely retirement of nearly 40% of Pennsylvania's current skilled trade workforce.

“We believe this agreement helps to inform a statewide strategy to develop a workforce development pipeline of skilled trade workers,” said Dr. Tuesday Stanley, President / CEO of the PACCC. “Systems have been somewhat fragmented. We see that landscape changing.”

Pennsylvania’s community colleges, through PA Works! are seizing on an opportunity to build a first-in-the-nation workforce development ecosystem for skilled trade workers. PA Works! looks to expand partnerships with career and technical high schools and solidify a collaborative policy and funding relationship with governments and industry leaders.

The PACCC is already moving in this direction with a Technical Trades Consortium in the Expanded Northeast Region. Luzerne County Community College, Lehigh Carbon County Community College, Northampton Community College and Bucks County Community College are offering programs and training to meet the workforce needs of hyperscale data centers planned for Luzerne and Bucks Counties.

“It is our goal that PA Works! will codify, in Pennsylvania statute, partnerships among community colleges, career and technical high schools, and the building and construction trades industry,” Dr. Stanley said. “Doing so will magnify the preeminent role the community college sector plays in delivering workforce development programming in Pennsylvania.”

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About TradesFutures

TradesFutures is a non-profit corporation organized to develop, promote, and improve Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (“ARPs”). ARPs are educational programs that provide students with the fundamental skills and knowledge necessary to choose, obtain, and succeed in a formal, registered apprenticeship in the construction industry. TradesFutures is also dedicated to assisting underserved communities in establishing and maintaining careers in the construction industry. Learn more about TradesFutures and its work to develop a more accessible quality construction workforce at [TradesFutures](#).

About Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges

The [Pennsylvania Commission for Community Colleges](#) is a nonprofit, volunteer membership association and the primary advocate for Pennsylvania’s 15 community colleges. Members include the college presidents, members of the colleges’ boards of trustees and key college administrators. PACCC provides leadership on issues affecting the colleges and represents the collective needs, vision and values of the colleges to state and federal policymakers. It also assists the colleges in developing positions on their areas of concern, acts as a liaison and facilitator to share information, and coordinates data collection on a statewide level to support the colleges’ advocacy efforts.