

TRADES FUTURES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Organization Focuses on Advancing Diversity and Registered Apprenticeship Access for Construction

Construction industry owners, contractors, labor and workforce development advocates announce the formation of TradesFutures to increase diversity and quality construction workforce development access

WASHINGTON, DC (Sep. 1, 2022) – Construction industry owners, contractors, labor and workforce development advocates have come together to form TradesFutures, a new not-for-profit organization aimed at developing, promoting, and improving access to quality Apprenticeship Readiness Programs and supporting vital retention initiatives to reduce barriers for working families.

"We believe that promoting on-ramps to quality careers in construction will create lasting stability for more families and communities," said Nicole Schwartz, TradesFutures Executive Director. "TradesFutures knows that Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARPs) are the key component to building an equity agenda in construction workforce development and expanding them will help more workers secure more high-quality jobs within the industry."

The organization will fund expanding Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARPs), which provide historically underrepresented groups gateways to access and succeed in construction registered apprenticeships. ARPs are proven to increase diversity, recruitment and retention among apprentices. Among other initiatives, TradesFutures will also support innovative programs to reduce workforce barriers, such as childcare subsidy pilots for parent apprentices establishing careers in the construction industry.

"As the preeminent organization convening Apprenticeship Readiness Programs, we support efforts to expand access to the gold standard Registered Apprenticeship model," said Sean McGarvey, president of North America's Building Trades Unions and TradesFutures Board Chair. "NABTU has seen the life-changing impact of these programs on underserved communities. By expanding ARPs that target these communities, TradesFutures will increase diversity in the Registered Apprenticeship pool and the highly-skilled, middle-class construction workforce."

"Robust private investment and labor-management commitments are vital to ensuring workers of all backgrounds can meet the training demands of a competitive industry," said Sam Lyon, Principal Vice President and Manager of Bechtel's Global Workforce Services. "We are pleased to serve on the TradesFutures board and will do all we can to elevate diversity in and access to the most proven and widely recognized workforce development model."

TradesFutures will develop and tailor courses and curricula for local ARPs, help community-based organizations establish and maintain ARPs, and support a broad range of initiatives to assist women, veterans, and people of color in establishing and maintaining careers in the construction industry. The organization's work will be guided by an advisory board of labor and industry experts, including Southern Company, Bechtel, Day and Zimmerman, and Ørsted. The organization has applied to obtain formal recognition of its status as a tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)3 of the Internal Revenue Code.

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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 women, veterans, and people of color in establishing and maintaining careers in the construction industry. Learn more about Tradesfutures and its work to develop a more diverse and accessible quality construction workforce at tradesfutures.org.

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