

Announcing the TradesFutures Rising Leaders Program

We are thrilled to announce the **TradesFutures Rising Leaders Program**, sponsored by Milwaukee Tool, which will sponsor up to 10 participants or graduates of an Apprenticeship Readiness Program (ARP) to attend the Tradeswomen Build Nations (TWBN) conference in Chicago, Illinois, from September 19–21, 2025.

The goal of the TradesFutures Rising Leaders Program is to uplift and strengthen mentorship among tradeswomen, and expand pathways from ARPs into registered apprenticeships within the unionized construction trades. ARPs may submit applications on behalf of ARP participants/recent graduates they nominate for the voucher, or ARP participants/recent graduates may submit their own applications directly.

Nominee Eligibility Criteria:

- Currently enrolled in an ARP utilizing the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum (MC3), or have graduated from such a program within the past twelve months, and
- 18 years of age or older at the time of submitting your application
- Able to attend TWBN in Chicago, from September 19-21, 2025

Application Requirements:

- A completed questionnaire (see below)
- There must be one or more local union members from the same region attending the TWBN conference to provide mentorship and community support
- Applicants must provide a short letter of recommendation from an ARP that is in good standing with TradesFutures
 - o The letter of recommendation from the ARP must identify these individuals and explain how they will provide mentorship and support to the applicant throughout the event. We strongly recommend that local partners support any attendees with hotel bookings and flight reservations, as TradesFutures cannot provide assistance with booking travel or lodging.
- ARPs may nominate up to two individuals from their respective programs.

Awardees will receive:

- Free admission to the 2025 TWBN conference
- A voucher valued up to \$2,500 to support conference attendance (may be used for travel, lodging, and incidentals)
- Recognition at the 2025 TWBN conference

The following information must be submitted as part of the application to allison@tradesfutures.org by 11:59 PM on Thursday, August 14, 2025. Recipients of the voucher will be notified on Tuesday, August 19, 2025.

Questionnaire for ARP participant/graduate:

1. What is your name, email address, phone number and mailing address (used if selected)?
2. Are you 18 or older?
3. Which Apprenticeship Readiness Program are you enrolled in or did you graduate from? Include the name and location of the program.
 - a. *Enrolled students only:* If already enrolled an ARP, which trade are you considering pursuing and why?
 - b. *Graduates only:* When did you graduate?
 - c. *Graduates only:* Are you currently a union member and/or participating in a registered apprenticeship program? If so, which one?
 - d. *Graduates only:* If not, please describe your current status (e.g., employed; completed an interview with a registered apprenticeship program and awaiting placement; in school).
4. Tell us about yourself and what inspired your interest in the trades.
5. Share a highlight or proud moment in your career so far.
6. Were there challenging moments in your trades journey and how did you overcome them?
7. What advice would you give others pursuing a career in the trades?
8. Please attach your ARP letter of recommendation, which should identify who else from your region is attending the conference and explain how they will provide mentorship and support throughout the event.

Consent to Publish

By submitting your application, you consent that your name, photograph, and written responses may be published on our website, social media, educational materials, and other marketing channels. No additional compensation will be provided for such use.

Tax Information

Payment of U.S. federal income tax is a personal obligation of each awardee, and all funds provided under the Rising Leaders Program are subject to taxation. Awardees are solely responsible for determining their own tax liability and complying with all applicable tax laws and reporting obligations.