



COUNCIL MEMBERS

- HOLLY WASIELEWSKI
COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON
CHRISTMAN COMPANY
- MEG MATHIS
DAN VOS CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY
- NICK ELZINGA
CONTROL SOLUTIONS INC.
- RACHEL AUSTIN
BARTON MALOW
- MINDY CURTISS
KENT COMPANIES
- WALTER CHRISTOPHERSEN
IBEW 275
- AMY LEBEDNICK
WEST MICHIGAN WORKS!
- SHAYNA CARLSON
OTTAWA AREA
CAREERLINE TECH CENTER
- TODD TOMEK
FLEIS & VANDENBRINK
- SARA WHISLER
CARBONSIX CONSTRUCTION
- LINDSAY KRONEMEYER
ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND
CONTRACTORS, INC. WESTERN MICHIGAN
CHAPTER

FUNDERS

- MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF LABOR AND ECONOMIC
OPPORTUNITY
- WEST MICHIGAN WORKS!
- BUIST
- EIKENHOUT, INC.
- CONSUMERS ENERGY
- DTE ENERGY
- FLEIS & VANDENBRINK
- REITH-RILEY
CONSTRUCTION CO.
- OPERATING ENGINEERS
LOCAL 324
- MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION
- MICHIGAN REGIONAL
COUNCIL OF CARPENTERS
AND MILLWRIGHTS
- WINDEMULLER, INC.
- UA LOCAL 174 PLUMBERS
& PIPEFITTERS
- IBEW LOCAL 275
- ROCKFORD
CONSTRUCTION
- BOUMA CORPORATION
- MICHIGAN ENERGY WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT CONSORTIUM
- MIDWEST BRANCH AMERICAN PUBLIC
WORKS ASSOCIATION



West Michigan Works! is a division of ACSET, an equal opportunity employer/program and a proud partner of the American Job Center network. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. West Michigan Works! is supported by state and federal funds; more details at westmiworks.org/about/.



2025 COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT



CONSTRUCTION CAREERS COUNCIL

ABOUT THE COUNCIL



MISSION AND VISION

Our mission is clear: to build a robust, diverse talent pipeline that meets the evolving needs of our region’s construction industry, ensuring its continued growth and success. Through strategic initiatives, we tackle workforce development challenges head-on through our three strategies: campaign, train and sustain.

The Construction Careers Council is forging a bright future for West Michigan’s construction industry by cultivating a diverse and qualified workforce. Our council represents various trades, uniting employers, educators, workforce agencies, unions and associations to address current and future talent needs.

INDUSTRY IMPACT

Projections indicate a demand for 16,000 new workers in the construction industry over the next five years. There are critical shortages in 17 of the hottest jobs in West Michigan which include millwrights, mobile heavy equipment mechanics, electricians, civil engineers and woodworking machine operators.



« Our work is critical to closing the skilled trades gap, empowering students and career seekers with real pathways to success and ensuring West Michigan’s construction industry thrives for generations to come. By aligning resources and championing collaboration, we’re not just filling jobs—we’re building futures. »
- Holly Wasielewski, The Christman Company

BUILDING MINDS

The Construction Careers Council held Building Minds: A Conference on Mental Health in Construction in September. This milestone event brought together professionals during Construction Suicide Prevention Week to address mental health challenges across industries. Attendees took advantage of networking opportunities, and heard from speakers Josh Zoerhof, Mark Dyke and Deputy Director Sean Egan of the Michigan Department of Labor & Economic Opportunity.



« Mental health as it relates to our industry is a critical topic. We want to continue to remove the stigma and make it easier to move forward with the best type of help. »
- Meg Mathis, Dan Vos Construction

23
EMPLOYERS
ENGAGED

11
COMMUNITY
RESOURCES



BE THE DIFFERENCE

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION WEEK

We continue to celebrate Women in Construction week by recognizing women in West Michigan nominated by their employers for their exceptional work and unique contributions to the industry. Nominees are also featured in our Women Who Build West Michigan blog series created to inspire younger generations by sharing personal experiences, challenges and triumphs of women in the industry.



«The Women Who Build West Michigan Blog and resume assistance were key factors in helping me transition from nonprofit to construction in just 7 months, connecting me with women in the industry and giving me the insights I needed. I’m excited to see what’s next.»

- Brooklyn Guynn, Job seeker



7
NOMINEES
RECOGNIZED

6
EMPLOYER
NOMINATIONS

OUR STRATEGY

CAMPAIGN • SUSTAIN • TRAIN



CAMPAIGN

Implementing initiatives to promote construction careers across all age groups, showcasing opportunities and benefits.



SUSTAIN

Creating projects focused on the individuals in construction and implementing retention strategies to maintain a skilled workforce.



TRAIN

Developing programs for skill enhancement of current workers and introductory training for newcomers interested in construction.



BE THE CHANGE

MICAREERQUEST

At MiCareerQuest this year, 32 construction employers wowed 8,500+ sixth-ninth graders with their collaboration and interactive activities. Exhibits that featured project management team competitions, welding, electrical work and much more offered a glimpse into exciting career possibilities and inspired the next generation of professionals.

“I liked the construction and interactive tables at MiCareerQuest. The construction tables were fun, and I learned more than I thought I would. Also, the interactive/game tables were very fun and kept me intrigued with what I was learning.”

- Marlaina, Cedar Springs Middle School student



69
OCCUPATIONS HIGHLIGHTED

32
EMPLOYERS
ENGAGED

218
VOLUNTEERS

CONSTRUCTION FIELD TRIPS

We hosted 130 high school juniors and seniors as part of the Construction Field Trips project, designed to showcase the skilled trades as a viable and rewarding career path. The field trips were spread across two union facilities, two training providers, and six job sites providing hands-on activities in various construction trades. This project established a strong foundation for continued collaboration between educational institutions and the Construction Careers Council to create sustainable pathways into construction careers for West Michigan students.

“The field trip supports our curriculum and the work that we do here at the career tech center; it aligns with our vision of being ‘Future Focused.’

It helped students get a head start on career options and career development.”

- Sasamon Parker, Muskegon Career Tech Center



130
STUDENTS
ENGAGED

11
EMPLOYERS
ENGAGED

10
STUDENT
EXPERIENCES



\$3,808,973
TRAINING
DOLLARS
INVESTED



1,452
PROFESSIONALS
TRAINED



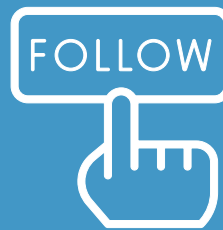
130
ENGAGED
BUSINESSES



330
PROJECT
VOLUNTEERS



8,626
K-12 STUDENTS
EXPLORED
CAREERS



781
LINKEDIN AND
NEWSLETTER
FOLLOWERS

