
President's High Growth Job Training Initiative

Construction Career Academies



Grant Amount: \$235,500

Grantee: The Associated General Contractors of America (AGC)

Key Partners: Local AGC chapters, community and technical colleges, high schools, businesses, local workforce investment boards, and labor-management organizations.

Location of Grant Activities: Sites across the country, including the existing Chattanooga, Tenn., and San Antonio, Texas facilities as well as Mat-Su, Alaska, Louisville, Ky., Burlington, Wis., Houston, Tex., Ridgeland, Miss., Omaha, Neb., and Portland, Ore.

Leveraged Amount: \$952,500 in cash and in-kind contributions from AGC and local AGC chapters

Challenge:

Total employment in construction will increase by nearly one million jobs by 2012. However, the industry has difficulty recruiting youth, and many youth that are interested in working in construction lack the skills employers need.

Addressing the Challenge:

AGC will work with its partners to sustain existing construction career academies in Chattanooga and San Antonio, and will develop additional career academies in seven local communities. Communities selected as sites for construction career academies are based on a range of criteria, such as a demonstrated need for workers and interest among multiple partners in participating in the academy. AGC will provide local academies with technical assistance in a number of areas, such as developing curriculum and forming partnerships between businesses and educational institutions. AGC also will provide students with materials and equipment and prepare instructors to teach in the academies. Finally, AGC will develop guidelines to help employers, educators, and stakeholders in local areas that are not part of the grant develop their own construction career academies.

Projected Outcomes:

- Sustainable construction career academies will be fully developed and will provide students with academic instruction and occupational training to help them acquire the skills and competencies needed in the construction industry.
- Construction career academies will serve 400 to 500 students.
- Guidelines will be formulated for use by local AGC chapters and other stakeholders that are interested in developing their own construction career academies.

