

North America's Building Trades' Unions Training Capacity Talking Points

Overview

- The safest, most highly skilled and productive construction craft workers receive their training through privately-funded, local joint apprenticeship and training committees (JATCs), which offer nationally-recognized, state-of-the-art curricula.
- JATC apprenticeship training combines industry standard technical (classroom) instruction with structured on-the-job learning.

Training Investment

- The Building Trades and their signatory contractors **invest over \$1 billion annually in apprentice and journey-level training**. This total does not include the tens of millions invested by the JATCs annually in construction training plant and equipment (*Source: North America's Building Trades Unions Research Department – Survey of Building Trades Unions' Training Budgets*).
- The Building Trades and their signatory contractors annually invest \$10 billion in apprentice wages and benefits (*Source: North America's Building Trades Unions Research Department*).

Training Capacity

- The Building Trades' affiliate unions and their signatory contractors have more than **1,600 training centers** in the United States (*Source: North America's Building Trades Unions Research Department Survey - Survey of Building Trades Training Centers for Interactive Training Center Map*).
- Overall, the 15 Building Trades unions operate 1,900 training centers across the US and Canada (*Source: North America's Building Trades Unions Research Department Survey - Survey of Building Trades Training Centers for Interactive Training Center Map*).
- For an interactive map of the Building Trades training centers, see www.bctd.org
- Approximately two-thirds of all registered apprentices in the US are trained in the construction industry (*Source: Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Data*).
- Among construction apprentices, 75 percent are trained in the unionized construction sector – known as the joint apprentice training committee (JATC) system (*Source: Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration Data*).

- If the Building Trades training system, which includes both apprentice-level and journeyman-level training, was a degree granting college or university, it would be the largest degree granting college or university in the United States — over 5 times larger than Arizona State University. (*Source: North America’s Building Trades Unions Research Department – Comparison of Building Trades JATC Active Apprentices and US Dept of Education National Center for Education Statistics (2015)*).
- If Building Trades training system, which includes both apprentice-level and journeyman-level training, was a public university system, it would be the third largest public university system in the United State — almost twice as large as the University of Texas system. (*Source: North America’s Building Trades Unions Research Department – Comparison of Building Trades JATC Active Apprentices and Enrollment, Largest U.S. Public University Systems, 2015*).
- If Building Trades training system, which includes both apprentice-level and journeyman-level training, was a K-12 school district, it would be the fourth largest school district in the US, only behind New York, Los Angeles, and Chicago. (*Source: North America’s Building Trades Unions Research Department – Comparison of Building Trades JATC Active Apprentices and Enrollment, ASU 100 Largest US School Districts by Enrollment*).
- The Building Trades affiliate unions have “the most extensive and institutionalized partnerships” with community colleges in the US labor movement (*Source: The Aspen Institute, AFL-CIO’s UA Apprenticeship Program, <http://www.aspeninstitute.org/policy-work/economic-opportunities/skills-americas-future/models-success/afl-cio>, accessed 12/17/13*).
- Across the US, Building Trades Councils and their community partners teach the Building Trades’ *Multi-Craft Core Curriculum* as part of the largest apprenticeship readiness training program in the construction industry. Currently there are more than 100 Building Trades Apprenticeship Readiness Programs in operation or in planning for 2017. In 2016, nearly 1,000 people successfully completed the Multi-Craft Core Curriculum; 83% of these graduates were from communities of color and 25% were women (*Source: North America’s Building Trades Unions Research Department*).

Training Standards

- All Building Trades apprenticeship programs are registered with either the national Department of Labor’s Office of Apprenticeship or the State Apprenticeship Agencies.
- These registered apprenticeship programs provide the participants with a high quality, portable, industry sanctioned, nationally recognized credential that certifies occupational proficiency in the construction industry.
- The Building Trades also provide training for tens of thousands of journey-level workers each year, with the goal of continually improving their cutting-edge skills.

- Journey-level training includes OSHA sanctioned health and safety training, foreman training, instructor certification and other forms of journey-level skill upgrades.
- The Building Trades also prepare and train workers for the special demands in certain industries, such as the Nuclear Mechanics Apprenticeship Process (NMAP), which certifies journey-level workers by teaching them skills used across the nuclear industry.

Coalitions

- The Building Trades founded Helmets to Hardhats – a national, nonprofit program that connects National Guard, Reserve, retired and transitioning active-duty military service members with skilled training and quality career opportunities in construction. Over the past 13 years, H2H has placed over 22,000 transitioning service members in Building Trades registered apprenticeship programs.
- The Building Trades work closely with national organizations including the National Urban League, the NAACP and Catholic Charities on workforce development and local hire initiatives, construction jobs as pathways out of poverty, and the Urban League’s emerging business enterprise program in major cities across the US.
- The Building Trades works closely with YouthBuild USA, an education program funded by the Department of Labor. In YouthBuild USA programs, low-income young people work full-time toward their GEDs or high school diplomas while learning job skills by building affordable housing in their communities.
- The Building Trades works with a number of national organizations to expand opportunities for women in construction, including Wider Opportunities for Women (Chicago), Apprenticeship and Non-Traditional Employment for Women or ANEW (Seattle) and Oregon Tradeswomen Inc.
- The Building Trades is partnering with Clinton Global Initiative and the American Federation of Teachers to facilitate a \$10 billion investment in energy efficient building retrofits.

Workplace Safety and Health

- The Building Trades founded the Center for Construction Research and Training, which is the largest construction safety research institute in the world (annual budget \$22 million).
- The Center’s mission is to prevent occupational fatalities, injuries, and illnesses and to continuously improve working conditions throughout construction industry.