



the BLUEPRINT

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Construction Careers Center Charter High School

Editor-in-Chief: Shelly Stidmon

CLASS OF 2006 GRADUATION

The Construction Careers Center graduated their second class of seniors at the Harris-Stowe State University on June 27, 2006. The event marked an important accomplishment for each graduate and the school. The Class of 2006 was twice as large as last year's first-ever graduating class of 32 seniors.



Above: Junior classman Michael Marion was an Usher escorting guests to their seats.

The students who received diplomas now have several choices for their future, including construction apprenticeship programs, an entry-level job or continuing their education. Several graduates have secured employment in the construction field, while others plan to pursue college degrees. The graduates will be an important part of the future workforce. Individuals will have the opportunity to become carpenters, architects, laborers, cement finishers, engineers, electricians, painters, brick-layers, operating engineers and productive citizens of the community.

Those in attendance at the ceremony included CCC Board President Rich Ledbetter, CCC Administrator Dr. Michael Musick, St. Louis Construction Industry Leaders and Apprenticeship Representatives, teachers, students, parents and supporters. AGC Board of Directors Chairman Jim Morgan encouraged the students to continue on their path toward personal and professional success.

As the first school of its kind, each new class of graduates is a milestone for CCC, a groundbreaking educational initiative. Not only did graduates receive a high-school diploma, but they were introduced to careers in construction.

The CCC is the first charter high school sponsored by the AGC of St. Louis and St. Louis Public Schools, and approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. It provides students an excellent foundation in academics, broad exposure to the construction industry and relevant vocational educational preparation. The curriculum is specifically designed by the construction industry to prepare students for entry into direct employment, a construction apprenticeship training program, a community college or a four-year degree institution.

The graduating class elected senior, Matthew Walker as their speaker. "We

Continued on Page 6



Above: The Triple C Graduating Class of 2006



Left: Matthew Walker addresses the audience on behalf of the graduating class.

In this Issue:

<i>Hilti, Inc. Donates to CCC</i>	2
<i>Construction Workers Emerge from CCC</i>	2
<i>2006 Prom</i>	2
<i>BAMSL Luncheon</i>	3
<i>4th Qtr Honor Roll</i>	3
<i>Rotary Leadership Retreat</i>	3
<i>Mayor Slay's State Of the City Address</i>	3
<i>ACE Completion</i>	4
<i>JAG Program</i>	4
<i>Thank You!</i>	5
<i>Field Day</i>	5
<i>Track Team Update</i>	5
<i>Parent Involvement</i>	6

HILTI, INC. MAKES GENEROUS DONATION

written by: Dr. Michael Musick

Mike Brockmeier and Kent Cook of Hilti, Inc. delivered over 25 donated toolboxes loaded with tools to the school on June 8th. Mike, a good friend of the late Rick Grebel, spent countless hours working with his corporate office and area distributors to make this donation happen.

Duane McGowan, CCC construction department chair commented, "These tools will be a valuable addition to our curriculum. Our students need exposure to the types of tools Hilti produces. Exposure will help better prepare our students for their internship and shop experiences." Dr. Musick added, "Hilti is the premier manufacture of quality tools. Our school is very lucky to partner with such a fine organization."



Dr. Mike Musick shows gratitude for the generous donation from Hilti, Inc. **Pictured left to right are:** Kent Cook (Hilti Regional Manager), Mr. Duane McGowan, Jeremy Hill, Dr. Musick, Mike Brockmeier (Hilti), Darius Hunt, and Len Toenjes (AGC).

CONSTRUCTION WORKERS EMERGE FROM CCC

written by: Ms. Gwen Crimm

The Construction Careers Center proudly announces the graduates of the class of 2006 and their new employers of the St. Louis Construction Industry. The following neophyte workers to the construction industry are off and running: Albert Keys-Laborer at Clayco Corporation, Michael Dahl-Laborer at Tarlton Corporation, Jeremiah Love-Laborer at McCarthy Building Companies, Tommy Smooths-Carpenter for Midwestern Construction, Fred Davis-Laborer at JZM Properties, Brian Cox-Plumber for Matco Plumbing, and Quaran Nelson- for Corporate Interiors. Please welcome them to our noble profession as they begin building their career.

2006 PROM AT LEMP MANSION

written by: Dr. Michael Musick

Prom was held on May 12, 2006 at the Lemp Grand Hall. The Dance was a great time for all, students and staff alike. All of the students looked lovely adorning formal attire and reminded the chaperones of just how grown-up they are.

The delicious buffet dinner was served by Lemp Mansion. DJ Shock provided the music, while Horizon Photography took photos. Our Junior Princess was Davita Jordan and the Junior Prince was DeEston Lewis. Seniors who were crowned as Prom King and Queen were Tommy Smooths and Shameka Wallace. Congratulations to all who were on Prom Court!



Above (left to right): Davita Jordan, DeEston Lewis, Shameka Wallace, and Tommy Smooths



Right Top: Devine Patterson and Brian Allen
Right Bottom: Kellie Young, Tiara Black, Shameka Swan

4TH QUARTER 2ND SEMESTER HONOR ROLL

Fourth quarter, second semester honor roll students are Ammie Leachman, Antonio Conway, Louis Hygrade, Robert Gregory, Cherise Gilmore, Courtney Parker, Byron Dyer, Raquib Hakeem, Antoinette Norman, Cherrell Sipes, Jerome Sims, Shacia Jackson, Joshua Wright, Olisha Saddler, Antoinette Oden, Ebonee Ali, Martez Johnson, Terral Henderson, James Jordan, Barry Robinson, Lorenzo Bledsoe, Garland Patton, Brendan Garvey, Amber Pritchard, Lamont Anderson, Erica Harwell, Darby Mills, Nashara Robinson, Dwayne Clemons, and Gabrielle Fields. Congratulations to all who put their best foot forward and worked hard to attain this status.



CCC REPRESENTED AT BAMSL LUNCHEON

written by: Ms. Gwen Crimm

Erica Harwell and Ms. Gwen Crimm, Placement Coordinator, were invited to be the guests of Mr. Edward R. Martin, Commissioner of the Board of Election for St. Louis City at The Bar Association of Metropolitan St. Louis (BAMSL) Law Day Luncheon held on May 3, 2006 at the Adam's Mark Hotel in St. Louis.

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia was the guest speaker at the luncheon attended by 1200 lawyers, judges, law students and future law students. The Distinguished Lawyer Award was presented along with two others. The final presentation was the transition of BAMSL leadership from Attorney Marie Kenyon to attorney Lynn Ann Vogel. Vogel was sworn in at the ceremony.

CCC Junior, Harwell has expressed her desire to become a lawyer and was awed to learn BAMSL has a sub-committee that addresses construction law.



Pictured, left to right: Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, Ms. Gwen Crimm, Erica Harwell, and Mayor Francis Slay

**1st School Day of
2006-2007
is August 28th!**

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

written by: Ms. Gwen Crimm

Over ninety parents and guardians filled the Construction Careers Center annex on Wednesday, March 15, 2006. Mr. Greg Wilson, the Guidance Counselor, and Placement Coordinator Ms. Gwen Crimm hosted a power point presentation to parents and students. The presentation contained useful information on graduation requirements to prepare students for employment upon completion, as well as internships, college admissions, and current year test scores for WorkKeys, ACT and the St. Louis Community College Accuplacer.

STUDENTS PARTICIPATE IN ROTARY LEADERSHIP RETREAT

written by: Dr. Michael Musick

Josh Wright and Trent Williams were selected by the construction department to represent CCC at the annual Rotary Club Leadership Weekend held in Troy, Missouri on April 28-30, 2006. The students attended workshops and participated in various leadership activities. David Wicks and Robert Longyear from the St. Louis Rotary Club collaborated with Mr. Duane McGowan to provide this opportunity for our students. One outcome of the retreat was developing decorative stepping stones for a local Habitat house. Mr. McGowan said that our student were able to help others from various schools understand the construction concepts for this concrete project. In June, the St. Louis Rotary donated \$2,000 to the CCC scholarship fund. This donation will help support students in our new college dual enrollment program.

STUDENTS ATTEND MAYOR SLAY'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

written by: Ms. Gwen Crimm

Dr. Michael Musick, Ms. Gwen Crimm and several students attended Mayor Francis Slay's State of the City 2006 Address on April 28, 2006. Mayor Slay emphasized that we must do more to assist the city of St. Louis to continue to grow. It was encouraging for our students to hear the mayor pledge to create career centers that allow youth to prepare for future employment and how Construction Careers Center is doing a good job in education. Triple C is counted as one of the city's success stories.

ACE COMPLETION CEREMONY

written by: Ms. Gwen Crimm



Michael Marion presents his group's concession stand project to attendees

The third annual ACE Mentoring Program Completion Ceremony was held on June 14, 2006. Eleven Construction Careers Center students committed themselves to participate in meetings, fieldtrips and activities of the Architectural, Construction and Engineering Mentoring Program (ACE) on October 12, 2005.

This school year's visits included pre-opening day at the new Cardinal Baseball stadium, the Marquette Building Condos' project, an in person viewing of the final stages of the new landing airstrip at Lambert St. Louis Airport, visiting the Engineering Department at SIU-Edwardsville, the St. Louis University

Research Building, and the Jefferson National Memorial Expansion at the Arch.

Participants elected their annual project to be the designing of a concession stand for the new Cardinals baseball stadium. With the devoted assistance of mentors Jason Oatis (HOK), Kyle Wagner (Mackey Mitchell), Tony Arnold (KWAME), Elisa Kunz (Arch) and Ted Mills (CCC) students worked hard to complete the project. Together, they discussed every aspect of a concession stand from the customers, employees and owner perspectives. Participants worked hard on this great project and were rewarded with a completion ceremony to wrap up another successful year.



Pictured above (left to right): front row – Ms. Gwen Crimm, Corey Watkins, Deloris Cairo, Lamont Anderson, Aleesha Lee and Kevin Strayhorn; back row – Elisa Kunz, Tony Arnold, Craig Higgins, Erston Mallet, Demetron Brent, Michael Marion, Ebonee Ali, and Kyle Wagner.

JAG PROGRAM

written by: Ms. Olivia Langendoerfer

During the fifth term at Construction Careers Center senior students participated in various internships throughout St. Louis. This allowed students to see the real world of work in construction. Those placed with St. Louis area companies were Matthew Walker, Damion Pierce and Mohammed Mohammed at J.D. Investments; Dwight Sloan at L & J Construction Company; Brian Cox at S.M. Wilson and Company; Michael Dahl at The Carriage House Shop; Craig Higgins, Joe Raymo, Jeremiah Love and Fred Davis at World Impact of St. Louis; Marshall Matthews at St. Louis Public Services; Jermal Barnett did Job Shadowing at Jackson's Properties Plus; and Teron Wiley at Residential Real Estate.

St. Louis as a whole benefits from these internships:

- Students benefit from working and learning in a high-skilled environment. They observe all aspects of the company's operations and discover how the knowledge they have gained in high school applies to the workplace;
- Teachers benefit from a better understanding of what business and industry expect of their future employees. By observing student interns, teachers can adjust their curricula and instruction to the needs of the work site;
- High schools benefit as they can assure students and parents that graduates will be well prepared for promising careers;
- Close ties with local employers enable schools to connect teens with career opportunities in a broad range of construction related fields; and
- Employers benefit from the strong, long-term relationship with Triple C, which will produce qualified job candidates for companies in the future.

CONGRATULATIONS AND A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL!

written by: Dr. Michael Musick

Amidst a sea of red, white and blue decorations in the cafeteria, over one hundred Triple C students were recognized for their outstanding work during the 2005-2006 school year at the 5th Annual CCC Awards Ceremony. These students received over 170 awards in categories such as: Best Academic Student in a Subject Area, Attendance, Most Improved Student, Principal and Vice Principal Awards, The Golden Triangle Award in Geometry, The Thomas Jefferson Award in History, and numerous construction awards including the Golden Hammer, Silver Hammer and Bronze Hammer Awards.

In addition to recognizing individual students, several groups including the Principal's Advisory, Skills USA, and Student Government were given Certificates of Appreciation. Athletic teams and individuals were also recognized with certificates and trophies by Coaches Harris, Frost and Caldwell. Each student was the recipient of a certificate as well as a prize package.

A final group was given special recognition and included adults from the community who have contributed to the success of many activities at CCC. These include Warren Dean; Jacobs Engineering for support of the construction classes; Dale Hagedorn, Construction Data Services for sponsoring a golf tournament for the past two years with proceeds going to CCC; Joanne Engel, Construction Training School for her IT support throughout the year; Aaron Greenberg, math tutoring volunteer; Mary Ellen Schie and Rosemary Caldwell, parent volunteers; Mary Stahl, community supporter; Glenn Dennison, Multicultural Day volunteer; Brittany Henderson, volunteer; and Bernadette Smith, a community volunteer.

The STAR Committee hosted the Awards Day Ceremony and wish to thank Nestle Purina for their financial support and family and friends for their moral support of these outstanding students.

CCC'S FIFTH ANNUAL FIELD DAY IS A HUGE SUCCESS

written by: Dr. Michael Musick

June 30th was the final day of the 2005-2006 school year at Construction Careers Center. The day was full of fun and excitement for students and staff alike! Students enjoyed games such as a potato sack race, water balloon toss, washers, putt-putt golf, hula hoop contests, and many more fun, yet competitive games. Tickets were earned at each activity and redeemed for prizes. Some prizes included snack foods and candy, stuffed animals, hats, cameras, CD players, jewelry, sports mugs, and other items. Students enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs, chips, drinks, and watermelon.

The highlight of the day was a water balloon throw where the student bought water balloons for a quarter and then were able to throw them at their "favorite" staff person. Some students were saving their quarters early! Students did not have to pay for anything except their water balloons, class photo buttons at \$3 and Polaroid pictures at \$2. The Triple C Student Teacher Achievement Recognition Committee (STAR), the entire CCC staff, parents, student alumni, and friends of CCC volunteers helped make this day a success.

TRACK TEAM FINISHES STRONG

written by: Dr. Michael Musick

The CCC track team completed their 1st season by traveling to Southeast Missouri for the Class II District Track Meet. Marquisha Hill and Bryan Johnson both qualified for finals. Other athletes who competed were Jon Edwards, Jessica Nelson, Christian Johnson and Desha Jones. The team competed in eight meets this spring. Marquisha Hill, Terral Henderson, Jessica Nelson, Desha Jones and Bryan Johnson all earned at least two medals during these eight meets.

Coach Harris and Ms. Caldwell deserve an enormous amount of credit for their work in organizing the team and leading the group to a successful first season.

**Students return
August 28th!**

2006 GRADUATION (cont'd.)



Right: Rich Ledbetter with Graduate Tiffany Taylor



Below: Rich Ledbetter with Graduate Michael Dahl



Above: Graduates applaud Matthew Walker's speech

Left: Rich Ledbetter with Graduate Jerresa Moore



Left: Rich Ledbetter with Graduate Michael Kent

came to the CCC four years ago with the hope that we would get a better education and be better prepared for the future. We believe we have constructed a better tomorrow for ourselves," said graduate Walker.

Proposed to help bolster quality and availability of skilled construction professionals and tradespeople for the St. Louis region, the CCC provides students a four-year, fully-accredited, high school-level curriculum along with a comprehensive range of construction and related professional disciplines. The school opened its doors to its first class of freshman students in 2001. Subsequent grades have been added each year, and the school currently has over 300 students enrolled in grades nine through twelve. "The Construction Careers Center is about giving students the foundation to pursue their goals. The fact that this year's graduating class is twice as big as last year's, shows that the young people of St. Louis need and want this valuable education option," said CCC Board President Rich Ledbetter. "Not only do our students receive an academic education and life skills, they also learn fundamental construction skills and the importance of giving back to their community."

"This school is a shining example of our industry's commitment to opening doors for young people who want to challenge themselves with a career in the construction field," said Leonard Toenjes, AGC President. "We are excited that so many of our students are seeking employment in the construction industry and that others are choosing to continue their education."



Right: Rich Ledbetter with Graduate Alesha Lee



Above: Don Greisenauer (Construction Craft Laborers' Joint Apprenticeship Program) poses with Graduate Brian Cox.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!
August 28th is the first day of the 2006-2007 school year!



Right: CCC Board of Education Members (left to right) Dr. Donna Dare, Rich Ledbetter, Jim Morgan, Sue Stewart and Terry Nelson



Above: Quaran Nelson celebrates this milestone with his family.



Graduates Craig Higgins and Brian Cox chat after the ceremony.