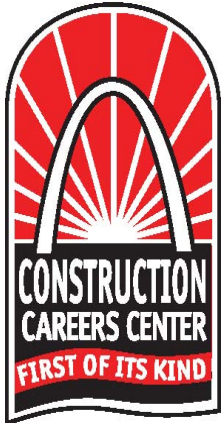


Construction Careers Center



On November 14, 2000, the St. Louis Board of Education approved the AGC of St. Louis' application to start a charter high school for the construction industry. The State Board of Education approved the Charter on January 11, 2001. This was the first charter school approved by the St. Louis Board of Education and the first high school approved for the St. Louis area. A board appointed by the AGC of St. Louis independently operates the Construction Careers Center, the name for the charter high school. The board first focused on identifying an educational facility, securing adequate start-up funding and employing a school administrator.

The Construction Careers Center started with approximately 100 freshman students during the fall of 2001 and added a new class each year. During the fall of 2008, 425 students were enrolled. The school's mission is to prepare students in grades nine through twelve for the future by providing an excellent foundation in academics, broad exposure to the construction industry, and relevant vocational education preparation. The school's 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 school implements strategies to encourage each student to develop the necessary skills, attitudes and work ethic to be successful in the construction industry.

The Construction Career Center is housed in the former Clinton Middle School now the Richard A. Grebel School at Grattan Street in St. Louis, Missouri. The building was purchased from the St. Louis Public Schools in December, 2004. The Associated General Contractors of St. Louis and the construction industry have spent approximately five million dollars renovating, restoring and creating the additional space needed to house the Construction Careers Center.

Charter school teachers utilize contextual curriculums to teach students. The curriculum is project based and allows students the opportunity to connect the classroom to real life applications in the construction industry. During their junior and senior years, students are involved in off-site projects that will allow them to integrate their school based learning with work based applications.

Funding for the operation of the charter school comes from state and local sources and construction industry donations. During the 2007-2008 school year, the Construction Careers Center received revenues of approximately \$10,153 per student compared to \$13,680 for the St. Louis Public Schools (a difference of \$3,527 per student).

The Associated General Contractors of St. Louis is the united voice of the region's construction industry, representing over 400 area construction firms. The construction industry makes a significant impact on the St. Louis region's economy by providing employment to over 80,000 workers. Last year alone, AGC of St. Louis member firms built projects worth more than \$3 billion throughout the St. Louis region.

Construction Careers Center

The Construction Careers Center has been recognized as the recipient of several awards:

- 2003 Sold on St. Louis Award -The St. Louis Regional Chamber & Growth Association presented this award in the Special Achievement Awards category in honor of the early successes at the school.
- 2006 Diversity Award -The AGC of America recognized the Construction Careers Center with its inaugural diversity award for the school's efforts to address the diversity issue in the construction industry.
- 2006 CURT Workforce Award -The Construction Users Round Table, some of the world's largest purchasers of construction, recognized the Construction Careers Center for its workforce development efforts.
- 2007 Mayor's Award - St. Louis Mayor, Francis G. Slay recognized the Construction Careers Center for its pioneering approach to diversifying the construction industry and enhancing workforce development in the City of St. Louis.
- 2008 FOCUS St. Louis Award – FOCUS St. Louis recognized the Construction Careers Center for demonstrating innovative solutions toward the shrinking workforce by successfully piloting a program to diversify the construction industry and provide needed workers to the industry through education.

The Construction Careers Center has graduated classes in June 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008 (185 seniors).

The follow-up for the four graduating classes combined found:

- One Hundred Seventy-one (93%) graduates are employed, are continuing education or have Joined the military
- Thirty graduates (16%) employed in construction related jobs
- Sixty-three (34%) employed in non-construction related jobs
- Twenty-one (11%) continuing education related to construction
- Fifty-three (29%) continuing education not related to construction
- Four (2%) serving in the military not related to construction
- Twelve (6%) not employed
- Two (1%) are deceased

In 2005, the Construction Careers Center Board of Education and the Construction Industry drafted a three-year strategic plan to address the following issues:

1. Improve academic achievement
2. Increase student recruitment and retention
3. Improve the recruitment and retention of teachers
4. Increase Parent Involvement
5. Increase Industry Outreach and Involvement

Immediate Needs of the Construction Careers Center:

- Improvement of student academic performance
- Student Recruitment – Awareness of the opportunities available in construction
- Recruitment of Instructional Staff
- Involvement of Parents

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