

ICC's High School Technical Training Program (HSTTP) Continues to Grow and Succeed



This article features students, administrators and code officials in three different scenarios demonstrating the success of the HSTTP.

EAST CAREER AND TECHNICAL ACADEMY (ECTA), LAS VEGAS, NEV.



GRAYSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



2014 COA GRADUATE RETURNS FOR MORE ICC CERTIFICATIONS



ICC's High School Technical Training Program (HSTTP) Continues to Grow and Succeed *continued*

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Students in Fausto Vega's and Tim Litz's (retired) construction technology classes visited the World of Concrete exhibition at the Las Vegas Convention Center in February 2016. Arizona State University's Del E. Webb School of Construction hosted the East Tech Titans and treated them to tickets to the show and for lunch. The students listened to presentations by Whitney Hatfield, recruiter for ASU, project managers Ralph Sibley and Mike Kurowski from The Penta Building Group, and Dean Marsico and Derek Stearns, hosts of DIY Network's "Rock Solid" and "Indoors Out."

After the presentations, East Tech students broke into small groups and were assigned to an ASU graduate student. The graduate students led their groups on tours around the convention center, while sharing their own college experience. Inside the convention center, students saw large trucks used to transport concrete, in addition to loaders, backhoes, aerial platforms, mini-excavators and cranes. Outside the convention center,

students witnessed different uses of concrete in landscaping and residential designs, in addition to seeing new machinery to cut concrete. They participated in hands-on demonstrations, such as trying to cut through a concrete slab using robotics, riding a concrete polishing machine, and using new power tools and drills.

Each school year, seniors in the construction technology classes are required to develop a capstone project and present the final results in the spring. Seniors began their project in October and were required to use Problem Based Learning to develop a process or product. One project was a retrofitted small home with a brilliantly designed safe shelter for children.

ECTA was sponsored by the Southern Nevada International Code Council (SNICC) and entered the HSTTP three years ago. It is one of our shining programs. Construction instructor Vega prepares his students every year to take two HSTTP exams. ECTA has had great success, with an average of 36 students receiving two ICC Certificate of Achievement (COAs) each year.



ECTA students at Concrete World.



ECTA safe house and ECTA safe room behind hidden door.

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GRAYSON COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL



Jimmy Moss with student.

Jimmy S. Moss, CBO, CBMO, Building Official for Grayson County, Va., and Sergeant at Arms for the Virginia Building Code Officials Association (VBCOA), became involved with the HSTTP through his local high school, Grayson County High School. The school was in the process of removing the building trades program from their curriculum at the end of the 2014–2015 school year.

“Building trades are my passion and one of the largest employers in Grayson,” Moss said. “I could not let this become a reality.”

Moss approached Dr. Larry Massie, interim Grayson County High School superintendent, about the need for technical trade-related programs—their relationship between workforce development and impact on economic development. Massie was receptive to maintaining the program on a trial basis, but concerned their current curriculum was not adequate.

Moss knew he had the perfect program to present to Dr. Massie. With VBCOA's new outreach program and support of the HSTTP, Moss set to work formulating a plan that included Grayson County, the City of Galax and Carroll County high schools, along with Crossroads Institute and community college representatives from Southwest Virginia and Wytheville. An informal meeting was held to explain the HSTTP and discuss introducing the program into the schools' construction trades curricula. Massie said it was the best 90-minute meeting he ever attended. It was informative and purposeful. To ensure school officials knew this was a serious start-up meeting, Moss offered VBCOA Region I's support to sponsor the Grayson County students.

Moss continued to show his passion for the trades and codes by offering to mentor two students from Grayson on a weekly basis, setting aside 1.5 hours a week to tutor them. Angie Lawson, Grayson County Trade and Technical School principal, arranged for Kellam Allen and Dakota Loggins to meet on Friday mornings at Moss' office for the instructional

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code sessions. Before the first trial-based school year ended, both students passed the HSTTP final exam and received their COAs. Loggins, being a senior, went right into the workforce for an electrical contractor after graduation. Allen came back for his senior year and continued his weekly sessions with Moss. This school year, Allen has passed the HSTTP final exams for electrical, mechanical and plumbing. And he did not stop there. Allen continued his studies and prepared for—and passed—the 2015 IRC residential building inspectors exam. A great accomplishment; we congratulate him on his outstanding determination.

This year, Grayson County Building Trades instructor Gary Bergeron prepared his class, and in December 2016, six more students from Grayson passed the 2015 HSTTP building exam and received their COAs. The success of these students has inspired five schools in VBCOA Region I to implement the HSTTP. With VBCOA support, the HSTTP has expanded into 13 schools in the Commonwealth.

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Zach Burnham graduated from Harford Technical High School (HTHS) in 2014 with all four COAs offered in the HSTTP. Burnham entered the program after visiting the school during an open house when he was in the eighth grade. Burnham said he was impressed with the variety of work the students at HTHS were tasked with completing. He could easily relate to many of these projects, as he accompanied his contractor father to many job-sites and learned early on how to work. Burnham knew from his father's experiences that a person with a trade could make a good living; he chose carpentry.

While at HTHS, Burnham worked on two modular homes the students built for Habitat for Humanity, constructed dugouts at the school's baseball fields and built press boxes for the Ripken World Series Little League fields. He also competed two consecutive years in the SkillsUSA event.

Burnham believes his ICC certificates, along with his experiences at HTHS, have given him an advantage as he entered the construction profession. After graduation, he went to work with Mark Eller, owner of Eller Custom Remodeling (ECR). Burnham worked with ECR during summer vacation his junior year, and upon returning to school for his senior year, he entered the school's work-study program with ECR. This provided him additional real-world experience, as he was attending school and continuing with his code education. Burnham felt working while in his senior year provided extremely valuable experience and allowed him to earn a decent wage.

After graduation, Burnham went to work full time for ECR—a seemingly easy transition with more responsibilities quickly coming his way. After three years of full-time employment at ECR and his four years at HTHS, Burnham is now responsible for more extensive and in-depth projects. He organizes, schedules and oversees quality control and customer satisfaction. In September, Burnham reached out to me to inquire about earning his residential and commercial inspector's certifications. Burnham sees these certifications as avenues to help him expand his career as a construction professional. Currently, Burnham is studying for his IRC inspector's exam. We wish him good luck in his future endeavors.

Now you can see how students, administrators, contractors and code officials work together to make the ICC's High School Technical Training Program a success. Currently, 40 schools are in this program; many schools have similar success stories and others have stories of students whose lives and personalities changed when they discovered a career in construction. You can see by these updates that as little as one and a half hours a week can make a huge difference in a student's future professional life. **BSJO**

Special thanks to Dr. Lisa Elder, Community Partnership Coordinator at East Career and Technical Academy; Jimmy Moss, Building Official for Grayson County, Va. and Sergeant at Arms for VBCOA, and Zachary Burnham, recipient of four COAs from ICC's HSTTP for their cooperation in bringing this story to you.



Left: Zach B. finishing tiled shower. Right: Zach with Mark Eller.