



## Career and Technical Education: Careers in Construction Program

An aging labor supply in the skilled trades has hit the Pikes Peak region as it has hit all of America. This economic driver of solid middle class jobs has ignited both political parties and industry all over the country. In fact, it may be the only issue that both sides of the aisle agree on.

When the economic fortunes of million dollar companies are in jeopardy, both politicians and corporate America responds. In our region, this response has been to be innovative and partner with local school districts to form what is being heralded around the country as the way to "fix" the skills gap in America's labor market.

A group of forward thinking, influential and connected builders and contractors created the Careers in Construction Program. The organization behind this program, the Home Builders Association, or HBA, has been active in the area for decades, but this program is relatively new.

The program aligns high school instructors with the best curriculum, resources and training in the industry, along with continued support for students by professionals. The HBA pays to get the curriculum into the hands of instructors and students, pays for instructors to have professional development on how to use the curriculum and ongoing professional development to hone their skills. The HBA then provides materials and equipment, so that all students have what they need to run the program and practice the skills

being taught. Finally, the HBA knows that the power of this program is in the instructor, and gives a bonus to each instructor as an incentive to stay in high school education and produce the next generation of skilled laborers for their industry.

**"I'm excited to be able to provide this opportunity to students. The level of engagement and interest that I have seen so far has been fantastic."**

*~ Brad Borkowski*

Manitou Springs School District 14 is a proud member of the HBA family of schools and is grateful to them for their ongoing financial and practical support. When we shared with the team at HBA that we were going to start a middle school program to explore the skilled trades at an earlier age, they jumped at the opportunity to support us and the program. This support helped us to get our CTE program's instructor endorsed by the Colorado Department of Education.

This support goes beyond the classroom. Students who finish the program will have the opportunity to obtain internships during their senior year to put what they have learned into practice in the industry. This could include everything from working on a home build

to learning how project development and finances work in a large commercial build. The opportunities are endless.

Several years ago, we shifted some of our thinking with regards to a student's life after high school. What students need to be successful hasn't changed all that much. They need to be able to work with, communicate with and change with people who may come from similar or very different backgrounds. They must be able to adapt and be able to acquire the skills necessary for a changing world. What we are doing and working on doing is getting these academic, real world and social skills into their hands. This practice and these skills are being taught as we know there are jobs and technologies that have yet to be discovered.

"Careers in Construction was launched in 2015 to help young people connect with construction trade education in the Pikes Peak and Southern Colorado regions. Careers in Construction (CIC) was piloted by the Housing & Building Association of Colorado Springs to support vocational education at area high schools and colleges — and to encourage our allies in the construction industry to join us in creating well-paying career opportunities while helping their industries.

"I'm excited to be able to provide this opportunity to students. The level of engagement and interest that I have seen so far has been fantastic. Careers in Construction has been so very helpful; from providing guest speakers, to helping



**The Careers in Construction Program offers hands-on training for students.**

my students find part-time employment. This program is the key to making all of this possible."

*~ Brad Borkowski*

*Manitou Springs High School  
Skilled Trades Construction Teacher*

### Careers in Construction Program Goals

- To show teens across the Pikes Peak region — as well as their families, educators and community leaders — the value of learning a trade, both for the satisfaction of building something and the career and educational opportunities it can lead to later in life.
- To offer job, internship and apprentice opportunities for young people who want careers in the trades.
- To engage our fellow businesses in supporting this valuable program, addressing the shortage of skilled tradespeople in Colorado and helping the construction industry grow.

**12%**  
PREDICTED CONSTRUCTION JOB GROWTH (2016-2026)

**13%**  
OF THE WORLD'S GDP IS CONSTRUCTION RELATED SPENDING

**82K**  
AVERAGE SALARY FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

**Manitou Springs High School**  
**Holiday Craft Fair**  
 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16  
 401 El Monte Place, Manitou Springs, CO 80829  
 Bring non-perishable food items for Manitou Springs High School's food drive (optional)

**Connect14 for winter and spring ... registration coming soon!**

**Connect14**

Registration for winter and spring classes will be opening on Nov. 18, at [connect14.org](http://connect14.org). You can also register EARLY by attending the Winter/Spring Launch Party, 5:30-7:15 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 14, in the MSES Commons.

We'll be bringing back many of your favorites, along with more intergenerational offerings. Contact Director of Connect14 Joye Levy at [jlevy@mssd14.org](mailto:jlevy@mssd14.org) with any questions!

## No school Nov. 25-29 for Fall Break!

