



CONSTRUCTION USERS ROUNDTABLE AND ASSOCIATED BUILDERS AND CONTRACTORS LAUNCH WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Contact: Greg Sizemore, CURT, (513) 563-4131
Gail Raiman, ABC, (703) 812-2073

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The Construction Users Roundtable (CURT) and Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) today announced the launch of a workplace improvement initiative, calling on the U.S. construction industry to continue its progress in promoting construction workforce training, recruitment, retention and career development.

The mission of the CURT/ABC Workplace Initiative is “to add value to the merit shop sector of the construction industry by identifying critical issues that affect cost effectiveness and driving improvements that will benefit owners, merit shop contractors and their workers.”

“CURT and ABC members recognize that training, education, recruitment and retention are essential to excellence in construction,” said Greg Sizemore, CURT executive vice president.

“With this new initiative, ABC and CURT have made a commitment to providing leadership in addressing critical workforce issues so the industry will be assured of an adequate supply of first-class merit shop craftsmen and managers,” said Kirk Pickerel, ABC president and CEO.

The working group consists of approximately 18 leaders from CURT, ABC and the merit shop contracting community. Mike Conley, engineering manager, DuPont, Wilmington, Del. is one of the co-chairpersons representing the owner community, while Gerald Sprentall, CSC Construction Manager, Intel Corporation, Chandler, Ariz. is the other owner co-chair. Carole Bionda, vice president, Nova Group Inc., Napa, Calif., is the chairperson representing the merit shop contractors. Bionda is the immediate past chair of ABC.

At the May 10 organizational meeting in Charlotte, N.C., the group identified approximately 20 topics to be addressed. The group settled on the development of three subcommittees with a number of those issues assigned to each of the subcommittees. The subcommittees are: Owner Requirements for Training; Career Path Development and Retention, and Contractor Craft Worker Compensation.

Representatives from both CURT and ABC serve on each subcommittee. Each subcommittee will develop a comprehensive problem statement and recommend action plans to address those problem elements.

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In addition, several individual members of the group have lobbied the Construction Industry Institute (CII) to fund a research project to explore the return on investment of owner-supported and funded training programs. CII is expected to make a final decision on this proposal this summer.

The subcommittees will meet throughout the summer and the entire group will meet in early September.

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Editor's Note:

The Construction Users Roundtable is an association of leading corporations in the United States dedicated to promotion of cost-effective construction methods. Collectively the members spend more than 95 billion dollars annually on construction services. For more information, visit www.CURT.org.

Associated Builders and Contractors is a national association representing 23,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms in 79 chapters across the United States. For more news and information, visit ABC's website, www.abc.org.