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School Districts & Trades Council Partner On Student Opportunity

GREENDALE, WI -- Area school districts of Franklin, Greendale, Greenfield, Muskego and Whitnall are partnering with the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council to offer high school students hands-on learning opportunities with the FIRST-EVER Milwaukee-area Summer Trades Institute on June 18 - 22. Held at the training centers of International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 494, Plumbers Local 75, Bricklayers (BAC) District Council of Wisconsin, North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, and Steamfitters Local 601, the weeklong event will give students hands-on experience to explore the possibilities open to them in the construction trades and try out tasks in the trades represented while earning high school credit.

To date, more than 50 students are registered to take part in the experience as they seek out information on future training and job opportunities in carpentry, electrical, masonry and bricklaying, plumbing, and steamfitting careers.

“We understand the importance for each student to follow a post-secondary path that meets their interests and abilities,” said Dr. Gary Kiltz, Superintendent of Greendale Schools. “College has many definitions today and may mean a four-year, two-year, technical-certificate, or trades-apprenticeship program. One of our jobs as educators is to introduce our students to the multiple ways to support a successful and enriching life after they leave high school. It is up to schools to help students explore every possibility. That is a goal of this program.”

According to Dan Bukiewicz, President of the Milwaukee Building & Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO, analysts predict a major shortage of skilled trade workers in the years to come and the Milwaukee Building and Construction Trades is seeing this as well. The group is eager to take a leadership role to help cultivate the next generation of trained workers with programs like this.

“This partnership in the Summer Trades Institute will give the students some real insight into what a career in the trades would be like, all while earning valuable lifelong skills and earning high school credit for doing it.,” Bukiewicz said.

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“When you can put kids in front of the actual piece of equipment or they listen to someone from the trades — the electricians are explaining how electricity works, the plumbers are showing them how to work on pipes — that is when you see the spark ignite in their eyes,” Bukiewicz said. “This program is sure to benefit students and the construction trades.”

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Editor’s Note: Addresses of training centers are found below. For interviews of student-participants or district officials, please contact Kitty Goyette, Greendale Schools, at 414-416-6215. For interviews of Union officials, please contact John Zapfel, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local Union 494, at 414-870-2081.

Summer Trades Institute Sites:

North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters
N25 W23055 Paul Road #3
Pewaukee, WI 53072

International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 494
11001 W. Plank Ct., #120
Wauwatosa, WI 53226

Bricklayers (BAC) District Council of Wisconsin
17125 W. Cleveland Ave.
New Berlin, WI 53151

Plumbers Local 75
11175 W. Parkland Ave.
Milwaukee, WI 53224

Steamfitters Local 601
3300 South 103rd St.
Milwaukee, WI 53227