



Ohio Construction Coalition

“News Blast”

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www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org

O.C.C. HOSTS STATE APPRENTICESHIP COUNCIL DIRECTOR

Ohio State Apprenticeship Council Executive Administrator Andrew Maciejewski addressed the O.C.C. Board during its monthly regular meeting on May 22, telling board members that OSAC is “alive and well” and its funding and staff positions are “safe.”

During his presentation, Mr. Maciejewski laid out his vision for the future of OSAC, which board members agreed the O.C.C. should support and help promote. These goals include increasing the number of apprenticeship opportunities throughout the state and increasing the accountability of program sponsors.

Key among advances at OSAC is the makeup and expansion of its staff; for 2008 and beyond, Mr. Maciejewski is directly overseeing a program support manager, a field staff manager, a data manager, 5 program support staff, 6 apprenticeship service providers and 3 compliance specialists. By comparison, the OSAC staff in 2006 consisted of a total of 12 individuals and no compliance personnel.

The primary job of the compliance specialists will be to monitor statewide apprenticeship programs, according to Mr. Maciejewski, an especially important function for the construction industry given that it enrolls 68% of the state’s total registered apprentices. Mr. Maciejewski is committed to maintaining the integrity of the state’s apprenticeship system through “compliance and quality assurances.” To accomplish this, OSAC will target some very ambitious compliance objectives:

- Perform 200 to 300 reviews each year;
- Audit every program sponsor within the next 2-1/2 years;
- Audit every program sponsor on a regular 2-year cycle; and
- Perform random RTI quality assurances during these periods.

In order to achieve the mission of increasing apprenticeship opportunities, Mr. Maciejewski said OSAC will work to increase the number of recognized occupations and the amount of registered programs for apprenticeship. To do so, OSAC will undertake a number of processes, including:

- Formulating articulation agreements with post-secondary educational institutions that would give apprentices college-level credits; and
- Creating pathways for apprentices to earn college degrees using work they complete in an apprenticeship program.

Mr. Maciejewski also informed the O.C.C. that his office strongly encourages the construction industry to register complaints about employers who don’t adhere to apprenticeship regulations to OSAC. “They will be investigated,” he said.

REP TELLS O.C.C. HE’LL FIGHT FOR CERTIFIED PAYROLLS

Ohio State Rep. Matt Szollosi told the O.C.C. during its May meeting that he will not stand idly by while the O.S.F.C.’s new certified payroll rules, instituted just this past March to require contractors to submit certified payroll records on all their school projects, is under threat of being altered and weakened.

“I didn’t work 7 months on this to have someone cut our legs out from under us,” Rep. Szollosi said.

The Associated Builders and Contractors of Ohio sent a letter to the O.S.F.C in April criticizing the policy and asking that it be stopped. On the surface, the ABC argues that the policy compromises employees’ security because the records include personal information.

The O.S.F.C is considering only requiring names and that no other personal information of employees be included on the reports. Rep. Szollosi points out that all other payrolls in the state include names and addresses.

O.S.F.C. Executive Director Mike Shoemaker had said in March that the certified payroll change ensures only that when changes are negotiated to existing contracts, the state has a way to measure how much additional work should cost. “We want to make sure what (the companies) are paid for is what they paid to the workers,” he told the Columbus Dispatch. “We just need some documentation to back that up.”

O.C.C. CONTINUES ‘QUALITY CONTRACTING’ PRESENTATIONS

Representatives for the O.C.C. have recently conducted several school-construction “Quality Contractor” presentations to area school boards in various locations around the state. Most recently, presentations were made to districts in the northeast and southwest Ohio.

The O.C.C.’s presentation explains the O.S.F.C. “Quality Contractor” guidelines and their benefits to local school officials. O.C.C. representatives are making the presentations to individual school districts around the state as they come up for O.S.F.C. funding eligibility. The approximately 15-minute PowerPoint presentation includes video and media documentation of poor work at schools around the state and thorough explanations about how Responsible Bidder language can help districts avoid such problems.

To have the O.C.C. make a presentation to a school board, community group or construction organization in your area, contact Calvin Jefferson at 1-888-445-8255 or cjefferson@bmamedia.com, or Bob Verhoff at 440-366-4003 or rverhoff@lorainccc.edu.

REPORT POOR CONTRACTORS TO O.C.C. FOR LEGISLATOR

Ohio State Rep. Matthew Szollosi, a non-voting member of the O.S.F.C., continues to ask O.C.C. affiliates to report any and all “non-responsible” contractors that will be or are in the process of bidding on O.S.F.C. projects. **Contact Calvin Jefferson at 1-888-445-8255 or cjefferson@bmamedia.com to report non-responsible contractors!**

The next O.C.C. board meeting is June 27 at 10 a.m. at the Electrical Trades Training Center, 947 Goodale Blvd. in Columbus; all O.C.C. organization members are encouraged to attend.

For past News Blasts, visit the O.C.C. Web site, www.ohioconstructioncoalition.org, and click on “News.”