



Building Strong Communities Newsletter

Aligning stakeholders to provide industry-driven, apprenticeship-readiness pathways into union construction careers.

Building Strong Communities Update

Congratulations to the Building Strong Communities Team!

Building Strong Communities is honored to be the first officially State-Recognized Apprenticeship Preparation Program in Minnesota—a milestone that opens new careers in the construction industry across the state. Through its proven “earn-and-learn” model, BSC continues to empower Minnesotans with a direct pathway into the building and construction trades. This approach not only provides apprentices with family-supporting wages and benefits, it also strengthens Minnesota’s workforce with the skilled talent needed to build our state’s future.



Graduating Class of 2025





Graduating Class of 2023

Information Sessions

Information sessions for the February 2026 Building Strong Communities Program have begun. To register for an Information Session, click on the link below for the session you'd like to register for and complete the registration form. Then, return to the Information Session page on the [website](#) when the meeting day has arrived to join the session, or check your email for a direct link. Check our [website](#) for more Information Sessions.

[BSC Information Session](#)

Hosted By: Building Strong Communities

Start: Wednesday, Oct 15, 2025 06:00 PM

Timezone: America/Chicago

[View Event](#)

[BSC Information Session](#)

Hosted By: Building Strong Communities

Start: Saturday, Oct 18, 2025 10:00 AM

Timezone: America/Chicago

[View Event](#)

Applications for the 2026 cohort are being accepted. Please visit our homepage at <https://buildingstrong.org/apply/>.

Graduate Highlight

Recently, BSC graduate Ebony Dickerson was one of the winners of the 2025 [TradesFutures Rising](#)



Leaders Program, sponsored by [Milwaukee Tool](#), which celebrates exceptional graduates of Apprenticeship Readiness Programs (ARPs) across the country. These tradeswomen have demonstrated remarkable resilience, determination, and leadership, overcoming personal, professional, and systemic challenges to build thriving careers in the trades. To hear more about her story and the Trades Future, visit her [Facebook](#) page.

Building Strong Communities with JE Dunn

We want to thank JE Dunn for being a financial supporter! Founded in 1924, JE Dunn Construction stands as the 8th largest general building contractor in the United States, with a presence in 26 locations and hundreds of active project sites nationwide. Their expansive portfolio spans industries from healthcare and aviation to education, military, and mission-critical infrastructure—demonstrating a commitment to shaping environments that serve and inspire. JE Dunn's connection to Building Strong Communities (BSC) began at the AGC Construction Summit, where a chance meeting with BSC sparked a partnership rooted in shared values. As a financial supporter, JE Dunn sees its investment in BSC as an extension of its mission to enrich lives through inspired people and places. Their support reflects a broader dedication to community development, employee engagement, and strategic collaboration.

Looking ahead, JE Dunn is excited to continue championing BSC's mission—especially by helping place program graduates into meaningful roles across the industry. Together, they're not just building structures—they're building futures.



Apprenticeship Coordinator Association of Minnesota

The Apprenticeship Coordinator Association of Minnesota has announced new leadership. Steve Tuhy, a respected figure from Operating Engineers Local 49, now serves as President, bringing decades of experience in mentorship and advocacy for union apprenticeship programs. His leadership promises to strengthen outreach and elevate the visibility of hands-on career pathways across Minnesota.

Joining him is Dallas Nustvold of the Laborers Training Center, stepping into the role of Apprentice Outreach and Instructor. Known for his ability to connect with emerging talent and deliver high-impact instruction, Nustvold is poised to expand access and engagement for future apprentices. Congratulations to both of these hard-working tradesmen!

Helmet to HardHats



MN Helmets to Hardhats had the honor of being one of three recipients of Adolfsen and Peterson Construction's 4th annual Golf Fore Gratitude charity event held at Brookview Golf Course in Golden Valley. This charitable event was sponsored by over 30 construction contractors and suppliers, many of whom work with MN building trades apprenticeship programs. In the end, A&P raised \$100,000 and donated \$33,333 to MNH2H.

AP's relationship with H2H began through a shared mission: supporting veterans, first responders, and their families. When planning their annual Golf Fore Gratitude charity tournament, AP sought out organizations that create lasting impact. H2H stood out for its direct role in connecting service members with stable, purpose-driven careers in the trades. MNH2H was a featured beneficiary, and its mission was proudly spotlighted throughout the day.

It is a great honor to be recognized by such a wonderful organization whose commitment and impact in the construction industry is well deserved.

If you are a service member or veteran interested in starting a career in the building construction trades and their registered apprenticeship programs, you can start your journey at www.helmetstohardhats.org.



Yellow Ribbon RibFest

The Minnesota Yellow Ribbon RibFest was a success! The funds raised go to support the Minnesota Building Trades Yellow Ribbon 501(c)(3) programs, which directly benefit Minnesota servicemembers, veterans, and their families. Funds help with paying for things like a military child's sports or after-school activities, yard work, or home repairs. BSC is proud to support the Yellow Ribbon Ribfest. If someone you know needs these services, please contact Joe Fowler at jfowler@local563.org to request the form.



Vignettes

Natalie Pilrain is a
2024 BSC graduate



now working for Ames Construction as an operator. Check out her story [here](#).

Gage Philips is a 2025 BSC graduate who is now a member of IBEW 110, studying to be a master electrician.



Megan Holland is the Workforce Development Manager at Ames Construction.

Construct Tomorrow

Construct Tomorrow is planting seeds of opportunity across Minnesota—one student at a time. This nonprofit hosts 8–10 events annually, each designed to introduce high school students (grades 9–12) to the world of union construction trades. Their message is clear: you don't need a four-year degree to build a successful, fulfilling career.

Through hands-on experiences and direct engagement with trade professionals, Construct Tomorrow helps young people envision a future in the skilled trades. Their events highlight apprenticeship programs and emphasize the value of union training, safety standards, and long-term career stability. Volunteers play a vital role in making these events possible. Union-affiliated contractors, tradespeople, and organizations are invited to participate, offering guidance and inspiration to the next generation. A 12-member board of directors—made up of union-affiliated leaders—helps steer the program's growth and impact.

Building Strong Communities supports Construct Tomorrow's work by providing essential funding and grant support. BSC also joins events to share its own

resources, helping expand the reach and deepen the impact of Construct Tomorrow's mission.

As Construct Tomorrow continues to grow, its focus remains firm: champion union trades, promote apprenticeship programs, and empower young people with real-world options for success.

Construct Tomorrow Events:

ROCHESTER

Rochester Community and Technical College

October 28th 2025

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)

MANKATO

Mayo Civic Center

November 18th 2025

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)

BROOKLYN CENTER

Heritage Center

December 3rd 2025

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)

HINCKLEY

Grand Casino Hinckley

January 28th 2026

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)

ST PAUL

State Fair Grounds

February 10th and 11th 2026

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)

ANOKA COUNTY

National Sports Center

February 24th 2026

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)

DULUTH

Duluth Entertainment Convention Center

March 17th and 18th 2026

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)

ST CLOUD

St Cloud River's Edge

April 7th 2026

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)

BEMIDJI

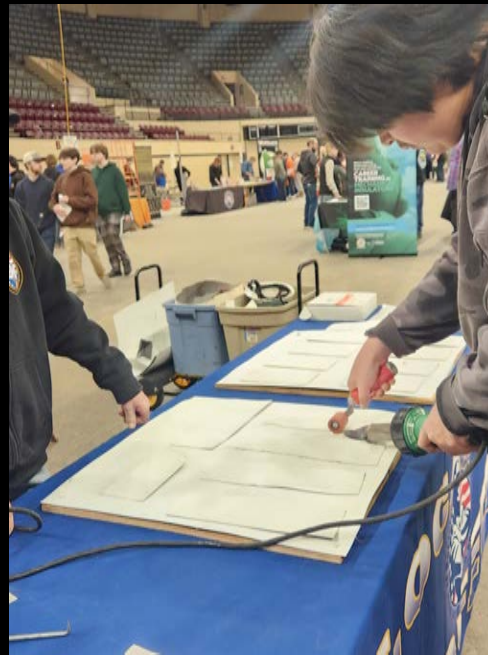
Bemidji Curling Club

April 28th 2026

[Register Your School](#)

[Register Your Trade](#)

[Register to Volunteer](#)



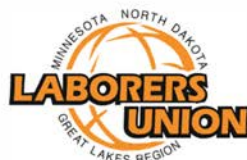
Military Appreciation Day at the Fair

At this year's Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair, Building Strong Communities took the stage an interview with Minnesota Military Radio, spotlighting their mission to empower veterans and transitioning service members through skilled trades training and career pathways. The conversation highlighted how the program bridges military experience with union apprenticeship opportunities—offering not just jobs, but purpose and community.

With the fairgrounds buzzing and flags flying high, the interview underscored the organization's commitment to honoring service while building futures. From carpentry to electrical work, Building Strong Communities is helping veterans lay the foundation for lasting success—one trade at a time.



“Thank you” to our BSC Supporters!





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