



Training Updates

From The Desk of Stephanie Davis,
Director of Education

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GREATER MICHIGAN CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY NEWS & UPDATES

Upcoming Specialty Classes

The following classes are being scheduled:

- **Journeyman/Master Electrical Prep Course.** This course is designed to prepare individuals for the Michigan Electrical Journeyman/Master Electrical License Exam.
 - Class dates/times to be determined
 - Cost Per Person
\$300 –member | \$450 non-member
- **First Aid/CPR Training.** American Heart Association certification will be issued and is valid for two years.
 - Class dates/times to be determined
 - Cost Per Person
\$60 – Light breakfast included
- **2011 NEC Code Update.** This program is required for Journeyman and Master Electricians to renew their 2015 State of Michigan License.
 - Class dates: To Be Determined
 - Cost Per Person
\$170 – member| \$200 non-member

Local Craft Championship

The following students participated in our Local Craft Championship and took first in their trade. Four of the students have qualified and will participate in the National Craft Championship which is held the first week in March in Ft. Lauderdale Florida.

Adam Emery-Millwright-TRC (qualified for nationals)
Justin Behmlander-Pipefitter-TRC (qualified for nationals)
Joe Zazo-Electrician-Robert Trahan (qualified for nationals)
Mark Koch-Insulator-G.E. Insulation (qualified for nationals)
David Laramie-Carpentry-RCL construction

The Primary purpose of this national craft competition is to help gauge the quality of the Greater Michigan Construction Academy education and training program against that of other chapters across the nation.

On behalf of the Greater Michigan Construction Academy we wish all of our competitors the best of luck at the National Craft championship.

FAST FACT: According to the construction labor market analyzer, the construction industry will need more than 2 million new craft professionals by 2018.





GMCA is Accredited by NCCER - *What does this mean?*

Source: Modern Contractor Solutions Magazine!

IT'S ALL ABOUT THE CREDENTIALS

According to Manpower Group's annual Talent Shortage Survey, the skilled trades has been the number one hardest job to fill globally for the last 3 consecutive years. The inability of contractors to find qualified skilled workers only highlights the immediate need for craft professionals to receive training that provides industry-recognized and portable credentials.

Contractors want to be certain that the craft professionals they employ on jobsites have reached a standard level of competency. NCCER credentials validate the training individuals receive and provide proof that they have the proper training for their specific crafts. NCCER credentials are industry recognized, which means contractors throughout the industry accept them.

NCCER is the accrediting body of the construction industry for training and credentials. Eight of the top 10 contractors on Engineering News-Record's Top 400 Contractor List for 2014 are NCCER Accredited Training Sponsors, and one-third of the top 100 contractors are affiliated with NCCER.

The standardized curriculum offered by NCCER is comprised of training levels for each craft, and individuals receive credentials after successful completion of these levels. NCCER's Core Curriculum covers basic construction and safety topics and complies with OSHA-10 training requirements, while NCCER craft curricula contain specific training for more than 70 different craft areas.

NCCER curricula produce journey-level written assessments and provide Performance Verifications which lead to industry-recognized credentials and certification. A craft assessment and Performance Verification can quickly determine the knowledge and skills that a craft professional has acquired through work experience and/or training. Candidates who pass both a written assessment and Performance Verification become Certified Plus, the highest NCCER credential available in most crafts. Research from the Construction Industry Institute has shown that employing NCCER Certified Plus craft professionals increases productivity and decreases absenteeism, injuries, turnover, and rework rates.

RECOGNIZING CREDENTIALS

The NCCER Registry System is the credentialing and certification system that assures portability of skills within the industry by providing transcripts, certificates, and wallet cards. After successful completion of training levels and/or assessments, individuals receive an NCCER wallet card with a specific identification number that allows employers to verify their training and/or assessment history.

Industry recognition is a key component of a valuable credential, and credentials have proven to significantly increase earning potential and upward mobility. Many contractors will offer their craft professionals training through tuition reimbursements for coursework, paid craft training programs, and in-house training, which can lead to promotions or salary increases. It is also common for contractors to institute wage structures that reward craft professionals for reaching milestones in NCCER training, such as from the helper to journey-level stages.

GMCA Collaboration

Greater Michigan Construction Academy is proud to announce yet another partnership to expand our ability to become the number one pipeline for skilled trades workers. In October, GMCA and LifeTech Academy entered into a partnership that will benefit students for years to come.

“LifeTech Academy is a cyber-public charter school, serving those in 7-12th grade in Michigan. Utilizing project-based learning, the students, who are called Learners, are encouraged to try new things, and learn that many subjects are interconnected. Matthew D. Anderson is a Partner at Engaged Education, the organization that supports LifeTech Academy. Anderson said of LifeTech’s goals, “we want the Learners to have an understanding that math isn’t separate from science, English, or history. At GMCA, our Learners

will have projects that encompass many topics and skill sets simultaneously, just as they will experience when solving problems in the real world.” LifeTech Academy Learners will be enrolled in the GMCA Lansing branch’s Core course that will begin in February, where they will be demonstrating competency in vast amounts of the math and other topics that the state requires of students in order to graduate with a high school diploma. To introduce GMCA to the learners, they are allowed to come to the Lansing campus once a week to meet with their facilitators. Offering LifeTech’s learners an opportunity to learn about a career in the skilled trades give them a choice that they may not have realized they had before.

GMCA believes that the learners at LifeTech are a perfect fit for our programs and will do well with our

module based curriculum. With the increased need for skilled construction workers on the rise, every trade is struggling to keep up with the work that is out there. Michigan lost a lot of our talent due to the extreme downturn in the industry and now suffers a vacuum in personnel that will take a while to recover from. This partnership helps us start working on that vacuum!

If you have a 7th grader or above that doesn’t learn well in a traditional setting or you have considered an alternative route for your student - check out LifeTech Academy. To learn more about LifeTech Academy, please visit lifetechacademy.org.



Pre-Apprenticeship Students Complete Shed Project

Led by GMCA Instructor, Dana Draper-Rosin, twelve high school students in the CTE/ Pre-Apprenticeship Program recently completed a shed building project. The hands-on project provided an opportunity to use their new skills in basic construction safety, proper use of hand/power tools, and reading construction drawings. Thank to Habitat for Humanity for providing the materials.

The students recently finished CORE, and are now divided into two groups to receive level one craft training in HVAC or Electrical trades.

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