



REV. STEPHEN E. TUCKER
President, JOBS Coalition

2020: PIVOTAL YEAR, PIVOTAL ISSUES

The year 2020 may be remembered as one of the most pivotal years in our nation's history. It's an election year of major proportions, with efforts underway to impeach the current president. Attacks continue on Social Security and workers persist in the fight for fair wages.

By Rev. Stephen E. Tucker

Continued on page 2

MAKING STRIDES: JOBS COALITION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



While raising awareness of workforce challenges and potential barriers to employment, the JOBS Coalition and its members have combined their resources and industry expertise to achieve the following results:

- Built the Bellevue Resource Center, a program facility serving the hard-to-reach, hard-to-employ, and returning ex-offender populations. The Center was completed on September 30, 2003.
- Guided the creation of the Construction & Design Academy at Cardozo, providing District students access, training, and preparation for careers in the construction industry and trades after graduation. The Academy officially opened in September 2005. □



OPPORTUNITIES ABOUND
Networking is priority No. 1 at the National Apprenticeship Week career fair.

NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK OPENS DOORS OF OPPORTUNITY, STUDENT CALLS CTE TRAINING PROGRAMS A 'GIFT'

Ty'reek Wylie didn't hesitate to praise the benefits of career and technical education (CTE) training during the National Apprenticeship Week job fair at Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering High School (ACE), where he's a senior. When asked about his afternoon of networking, he responded enthusiastically: "This experience presents a variety of job opportunities that I might not have been exposed to. It expands my horizons because I wasn't aware of a lot of these programs — it's been a gratifying experience."

By Arnesa A. Howell

Wylie was one of more than 70 students from Phelps ACE and the Academy of Construction and Design (ACAD) at IDEA Public Charter School who attended this year's National Apprenticeship Week mentoring and networking career fair aimed at advancing youth apprenticeship. The Nov. 13 event, sponsored by the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation (DCSCTF), included employers and training partners from M.C. Dean, A. Wash and Associates, the D.C. Apprenticeship Academy, Donohoe Construction, Miller & Long Concrete Construction, Ruppert Landscape, Shapiro & Duncan, the Department of Employment Services' (DOES) Office of Apprenticeship Information and Training, the District Wharf project and the District Department of Transportation's Urban Forestry Division, among others.

"Lots of students are interested in finding out about opportunities for their future," said Randall Shannon, workforce development specialist at DOES, who hailed the event as "terrific."

Doorways to Bright Futures

It's 1:29 p.m. when the first group of about 15 young men and women sporting Phelps signature blue gear adorned with the school's mascot — a black panther — enter the gymnasium. Minutes later, a cluster of IDEA students wearing their own school colors — maroon or red, gold and gray — filter in. They initially stick closely to their cliques, checking in at the front desk and picking up copies of "Passport to My Future," a booklet identifying each student's information alongside post-graduation plans, career fair tips like requesting a business card, and a listing of companies visited that afternoon. Slowly, however, the groups disperse and branch out across the room, with students stopping by employer tables to network and ask questions.

"What do y'all want to know?" asked Kenny Glover, a human resource specialist with Miller & Long Concrete Construction, when Phelps students approached.

"Everything!" responded one young man enthusiastically.

Continued on page 2

Tucker Outlook 2020 *Continued from page 1*

This current state of national affairs has an ever-increasing ability to overshadow many important issues at the local level, like the city's escalating homicide rate (166 killed in 2019, up slightly from 160 in 2018, according to data released by the Metropolitan Police Department), and the future of charter schools in the District.

In 2019, JOBS Coalition had as its primary objective to bring more attention to the struggles of returning citizens, particularly in their efforts to get documentation needed for the pursuit of employment. We are collaborating with two organizations — the East River Family Strengthening Collaborative and the Catholic Charities Archdiocese of Washington's Welcome Home Reentry Program — to assist in this effort. In addition, the *JOBS Coalition's Pathways* newsletter featured an article entitled "Lives Reinvented" that reported on the Congressional Black Caucus's continued efforts to keep reentry on the front burner.

Now into the new decade, the Coalition is looking forward to addressing the current state of affairs in Wards 7 and 8. Nearly 50 percent of the District's homicides are committed in Ward 7. And the residents of this ward are struggling with gentrification and housing development, both which threaten to displace longtime residents.

Education is also a continuing issue for the 70,000-plus residents of Ward 7. At a legislative meeting in December 2018, there was a commitment made by numerous members of the D.C. Council to require that a 50/50 allocation of all net revenue from sports wagering be dedicated to the Birth-to-Three For All DC Act, which provides a series of child health care and other support services for families, and the Neighborhood Engagement Achieves Results (NEAR) Act implementation to reduce violence in Wards 5, 7 and 8. We, the Coalition, will make every effort to support this measure and its intentions by working with faith- and community-based organizations, including the National Capital Baptist Convention of Washington, DC & Vicinity, New Commandment Baptist Church, and again, the East River Family Strengthening Collaborative — all organizations key to helping craft the legislation.

Furthermore, the Coalition will continue to spotlight the growing concern over violence inside D.C. schools. The problem is not only student-to-student acts of violence, but also increasingly student acts against teachers. Early childhood education must focus on reducing violence by emphasizing cooperative play strategies, effective communication and coping skills, and teaching youth of all ages how to better manage conflict amongst themselves and others.

We will also maintain steadfast support of the triumphs of the D.C. Students

Continued on page 4



IN THE KNOW Miller & Long's Kenny Glover gives Phelps students insight into the skilled trades during the NAW career fair.

Apprenticeship Week *Continued from page 1*

"What types of trades y'all like?" Glover continued.

"Architecture and engineering," they answered.

Many of the youth in attendance are already pursuing training in skilled trades like carpentry or electrical at their respective schools. That was the case for Wylie, who had specialized in the electrical trade his last three years and earned certification from NCCER, the National Center for Construction Education and Research. He's now aiming to attend college and major in political science or pre-law before attending law school. His ultimate goal is to become a corporate attorney and entrepreneur — opening a laundromat. Even then, he said, CTE training will be an ongoing source of support. "It gives me options if this law endeavor doesn't work out. I could always become an electrician," he said. "I can always go into another trade — home security or some other interesting things. I am certified now, so I will always have something to fall back on."

IDEA hosted the 2018 National Apprenticeship Week kickoff event. By expanding and bringing the two schools (IDEA and Phelps) together for 2019, the event raised the bar — convening a more diverse group of students and a greater number of opportunities through participating employers that garnered a visit from newly-appointed Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia (*see related story, pg. 3*).

Wylie admitted being surprised to see a childhood friend, Andrea Ulmer, in attendance from IDEA. The pair grew up in elementary and middle school together, he said. Chatting with her at the fair proved an eye-opener. "I didn't realize other schools had the same type of opportunities as Phelps," he told *JOBS Coalition Pathways*. "It lets you know there is competition everywhere — even in high school."

For 17-year-old Ulmer, the technical education provided in ACAD is not only "fun" but also a skill-builder that could pay off with a job or financial help for school. For example, each year the DCSCTF hosts its annual Meet the Future



SEEDS OF KNOWLEDGE Ruppert Landscape's Kate McCabe talks opportunity with an IDEA student.



FUTURE FOCUSED Phelps freshman Heaven Cuthvertson (left) takes notes during a booth stop.

Luncheon, where students compete for scholarships and awards to help propel their future education or other life goals, whether college or construction career.

As a young woman learning carpentry in the program, Ulmer quickly pointed out that her female peers should give the trades a chance: "You shouldn't judge it if you never tried it."

A Go-Getter

Heaven Cuthvertson stood out among the students meeting-and-greeting the employers on-site. While only 14, the Phelps freshman is already thinking about her future. She spent more than 30 minutes at the Ruppert Landscape table talking intensely with the company's representative, who she said explained how personnel training works there.

"I'm trying to figure out what I want to do when I get older. I'm trying to learn the types of things to do with stocking and delivery, and with family-owned businesses, how do they conduct themselves," shared Cuthvertson, whose school activities include JROTC and CTE training in

Continued on page 4



LABOR SECRETARY SCALIA VISITS DCSCTF-SPONSORED CAREER FAIR AT PHELPS ACE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL

By Arnesa A. Howell

The latest National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) at Phelps Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) High School celebrated careers in construction with a student-centric career fair, and newly appointed U.S. Secretary of Labor Eugene Scalia was present as the event unfolded.

Shortly after the arrival of students from the Academy of Construction and Design (ACAD) at IDEA Public Charter School and Phelps ACE, Scalia entered the gymnasium with his team of staff and security. Beth Moore, director of Foundation Programs for the D.C. Students Construction Trades Foundation (DCSCTF), which sponsored the event, was among those to greet the secretary upon his arrival. She told Scalia about the student-built tiny house, part of the curricula of the skilled trades training program housed at IDEA, while the secretary took the meeting as an opportunity to learn about the specialized career and technical education (CTE) programs and the NAW event.

“We offer a carpentry pathway,” Moore said,

prompting Scalia to ask, “Is there a shop on-site?”

“We would love for you to visit the labs here or at IDEA,” she responded.

The learning opportunity continued with Phelps JROTC providing a guided tour of the training partner booths, with the District Wharf among the first stops. This Southwest redevelopment project is a mix of housing, retail, public and cultural spaces that retains the city’s historic fish market.

Elinor Bacon, president of E.R. Bacon Development, said Scalia was “very interested” in the upcoming houseboat project that they are teaming with DCSCTF and Phelps ACE to start, part of an effort to provide students with training they’ll take from the classroom to the field for the build. His interest extended to asking about “the kinds of work that we’re doing with D.C. to make sure D.C. residents get hired,” she said.

“We have a strong commitment to hire D.C. residents,” she later told *JOBS Coalition Pathways*, giving a nod to the District’s First Source law that requires hiring D.C. residents for 51 percent of all new jobs.

The conversation surrounding this latest innovative project prompted ACAD Director Shelly Karriem to exclaim: “Heard that he’s gonna come and take a ride in our houseboat.”

To which Secretary Scalia responded: “It’s a deal.”

He also chatted with Sarah Friedman, a talent acquisitions specialist at Donohoe Construction. She provided insight into the company’s history, sharing that they are a family-owned business with the vast majority of projects inside the Beltway. She also praised Scalia’s questions for helping provide students with as much information as possible. “He was asking a little bit about what programs we have for particular high school students and what career paths they could expect if they joined us,” Friedman said. “I was able to explain that we have two distinct career paths: project management and field management.”

The secretary appeared especially engaged with the students as he moved around the space, asking about how they got interested in construction, what grades they were in and what they enjoyed doing in their classes, their future plans, as well as what they’d learned so far. “He asked what we were doing in our construction classes, and I told him we were building a kiln,” said ACAD student Andrea Ulmer, 17, noting Scalia also inquired about her age and what she wanted to do after graduation (currently, that’s study mathematics and journalism).

A sampling of additional questions asked, according to Moore, included: Where do people actually enter the industry if they want to enter an apprenticeship? And if it’s with a subcontractor, do they do the training?

“Not necessarily,” Moore said, reflecting on the conversation. “They might come to the D.C. Apprenticeship Academy. What if you did a program like ACAD or Phelps ACE? Well, then you can get advanced placement into an apprenticeship. Those were the kinds of things that were fun to make sure he tried to understand.”

After gaining insight into the dynamics of the construction industry, Scalia did get that chance to visit one of the carpentry labs at Phelps and observe hands-on learning in action. Moore noted an invitation would be extended to visit the skilled trades training facility at IDEA as well.

While there were no discussions of any agency efforts or commitment to expand workforce development, Moore said the Foundation hopes “in some of the follow up that we might be able to understand that better, which would really be helpful for us. It’s great that he came, and we hope that some day down the road that’ll have an impact.”

This isn’t the first time federal agency representatives have been introduced to ACAD. Senior officials from the Departments of Labor and Education toured the classrooms, training labs and tiny house project in 2017, with then-acting undersecretary for the U.S. Department of Education James Manning calling out the program for “best practices.” □

JOBS Coalition Pathways

Managing Editor: Arnesa A. Howell

Executive Editor: Carol Randolph

Copy Editor: Pam Ellison

Contributors: Arnesa A. Howell

Graphic Design: Jenn French Designs, LLC

Photographer: Imagine Photography

Board of Directors: Robert Braunohler, Bill Dean, Balchander Jayaraman, Eric Jones, John McMahon, Rev. Stephen E. Tucker

JOBS Coalition Legal Adviser: Roderic Woodson

The *JOBS Coalition Pathways* is the exclusive property of the JOBS Coalition, 702 Otis Place, NW, Washington, D.C. 20010; 301-262-0560. *JOBS Coalition Pathways* is dedicated to disseminating information that will help strengthen the city’s apprenticeship training and job placement programs, broadening the scope to reach the young, the underserved, the unemployed and the returning ex-offender. *JOBS Coalition Pathways* is published by the JOBS Coalition.

Apprenticeship Week *Continued from page 2*
electrical, a trade in which she's focused on gaining her license. "I really liked Ruppert Landscape."

She continued, "I'm just here for the experience and getting new information. This event was very helpful because it's got me thinking about landscaping."

Student goals varied — from getting a summer internship to logging community service hours — but all came seeking knowledge and opportunity.

Roughly 30 students visited the Donohoe table during the fair, according to Sarah Friedman, talent acquisitions specialist at Donohoe Construction. She said students covered the basics, asking questions like: What do we do? What do we offer? And, where are our projects located?

"Our typical internship program is our summer internship program and that is really more geared towards college students. That is a very robust internship program, which I've actually described to some of the students. That is really where we target juniors and rising seniors to participate in our internship program," Friedman said of the company, whose projects are in the District and the surrounding metro area.

With high schoolers, however, there are limitations. "Being a construction company, we have to be mindful of age and safety," she said. But Friedman did share that opportunities do exist for individuals choosing an alternative to higher education. "I was telling them that we have many very successful peo-

ple who work for us that have not gone to college and they make a very good living, and that's really important to know, that they have options."

Build a (House) Boat

ACAD students have tackled numerous projects over the years, including helping to build a single-family home and constructing a tiny house, a smaller scale Minim house, as well as picnic tables with benches. Next up: a houseboat.

This unique project will be a joint effort between ACAD and Phelps ACE students. "We are working very closely with both the DCSCTF and now with Phelps school on [this] project," said Elinor Bacon, president of E.R. Bacon Development, a partner company on the District Wharf project. "They will be building a houseboat that will be moored at the Wharf when it's finished. This is being funded primarily through a program that we're administering. Our development is on urban renewal land and so it was the District's land and they chose us to develop."

Discussing the project's timetable, Bacon said the budget, design and some technical issues are underway with classroom work slated to start in January 2020. "That will probably go through the summer and then they will start building," she said. "We expect it to be done in time for our grand opening in Phase 2 in 2022."

By then, Wylie plans to be well into his college career. But he has solid advice for those coming

after him pursuing skilled trades training through these programs and working on innovative projects in the pipeline. "Having a trade under your belt, you're always guaranteed a job. That is the gift that CTE provides — and it's free," Wylie said as the fair wound down. "People pay for trade schools and we're getting this for free at such a young age. We're cultivating these skills to make them useful later in life. It's a blessing in disguise." □

Tucker Outlook 2020 *Continued from page 2*
Construction Trades Foundation (DCSCTF) and the work of the students enrolled in the Academy of Construction and Design (ACAD) at IDEA Public Charter School. May of 2019 found us celebrating the "Best of Meet the Future" at the annual DCSCTF-sponsored luncheon. And in October, ACAD made a presentation to the National Capital Baptist Convention of Washington, DC & Vicinity, spreading the word across the faith community about its successful programs and outreach efforts to encourage more young students to enroll into the program.

While the 2020 election is front and center on the national stage, so is local politics as the D.C. Council readies for its own political race. Understanding the importance of engagement, the Coalition plans to meet with candidates for Council seats, including JOBS Coalition board member Chander Jayaraman, who is running for an At-Large seat. □



JOBS COALITION
702 Otis Place, NW
Washington, D.C. 20010