



The DC Students Construction Trades Foundation celebrates its  
10<sup>th</sup> Annual MEET THE FUTURE Luncheon

Friday, May 13, 2016

11:30 am Board and Executive Council Reception | 12:00 noon Luncheon  
The Hamilton | 600 14<sup>th</sup> Street, NW | Washington, DC

Supporting outstanding achievement in the Academy of Construction and Design,  
an accredited skilled trades career and technical education initiative  
serving students in the District of Columbia.

For tickets and information, or to inquire about CTE sponsorship,  
call 202.340.5657 or email [meetthefuture@dcstudentsctf.org](mailto:meetthefuture@dcstudentsctf.org)

[www.dcstudentsctf.org](http://www.dcstudentsctf.org)

## SAVE THE DATE

Join the DC Students Construction Trades Foundation on May 13 for the 10th Annual Meet the Future Luncheon honoring the latest graduates of the Academy of Construction and Design. Come meet some of the best and the brightest at this fundraising event, and learn how career and technical education is impacting their lives.

## 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. □



**TO LEARN & EARN IDEA Principal Lanette Bacchus (right) with DOES Director Deborah A. Carroll, recognizing D.C.'s National Apprenticeship Week with a mayoral proclamation.**

## IDEA PRINCIPAL BACCHUS TALKS INTEGRATING CTE, OVERCOMING STEREOTYPES

The scenario plays out something like this: A young teen in high school hears there's a chance to make good money by going the untraditional route. The student is encouraged to pick up some classes to gain exposure to electrical or carpentry work. That way, she and other students can learn math and technical skills that one day could lead to a well-paying job. Sounds interesting. So, she shares the news with her parents. The suggestion makes them frown, and they question her interest, and also the school's encouragement for their daughter to consider skilled trades as a future career option. This is just one of the challenges the school administration faced when the Academy of Construction and Design joined IDEA Public Charter School and brought skilled trades to career and technical education (CTE). But it's an obstacle administrators have overcome. *JOBS Coalition Pathways* talked one-on-one with IDEA Principal Lanette Bacchus about overcoming stereotypes surrounding career and technical education and the benefit of bringing the Academy to the public charter school in Ward 7.

*By Arnesa A. Howell*

### *On the overarching academic benefit of the Academy of Construction and Design to IDEA PCS:*

**Bacchus:** IDEA has always been focused on academics. We've always had an academic, college preparatory component. But a part of our mission speaks to getting students prepared academically, socially and through leadership

and post-secondary skills. As a part of what already existed, our CTE program is very bare bones, and I think this [ACAD] is the missing piece to the puzzle that we need to add to ensure that our students see the vast opportunities [and realize] there are more options for them. So now it's not just Microsoft Office, it's

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# REFLECTIONS

JOBS Coalition Remembers  
Board Member I. Margaret White

**I**da Margaret White, or I. Margaret White as she was commonly known, was a lady with spark. Just ask any of her fellow JOBS Coalition Board members, who recall her as “feisty” and a “champion” of youth education, employment, ex-offender and other issues at the forefront of the coalition’s efforts. On March 19, this longtime board member passed away at the age of 91. Here, Stephen E. Tucker, president of the JOBS Coalition, and John McMahon, chairman of Miller & Long Concrete Construction and a JOBS Coalition board member, share their memories of a woman who stood firm in her beliefs.

*What is your fondest memory of her?*

**Tucker:** My fondest memory of Margaret is the encouragement she gave me when I took over as president of the JOBS Coalition. She was very supportive and predicted great things for the future, and in a way, that spoke to her many years in the federal government. She said that my “hands-on experience” working with the unemployed and ex-offenders would prove valuable.

**McMahon:** Eight years ago, I had a very strong heart attack that should have been fatal. I was talking with her about how my intuition immediately told me the sensation in my chest was very serious. I drove myself to the hospital and got there in 7 minutes. I was talking about how lucky I was. Ms. White cocked her head because she knew that wasn’t it. She wagged her finger and said, “God just wasn’t finished with you yet.” She was a person of great faith. That epitomized her presence.

*What unique qualities did she bring to the board?*

**Tucker:** Margaret was a strong voice for the youth of the District of Columbia. In many of my side conversations with her, she would say, “Now Reverend, whatever decisions we come to, we must think about the youth!” She would always refer to programs that would keep our children from getting involved in the criminal justice system.

*What stood out the first time you met/talked with her or saw her? How would you describe her?*

**Tucker:** My first impression of Margaret could be summarized in these words: “A feisty lady!” You could tell immediately she was a leader and a very outspoken person. She was forceful in her conversation, which conveyed her many years working for the federal government. You could tell she was a “problem-solver.” As we often said back in the day, she was “large and in charge.”

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### 'FANTASTIC' VOYAGE

Principal Bacchus says the Academy of Construction and Design marks the “beginning of something fantastic.”

**Principal Bacchus** *Continued from page 1*

not just architectural design. Now we’re looking at the foundational components ... you don’t have to guess what it’s like to do hammering inside a room; you know what those skills look like. Then outside of construction, we’re actually making a connection to our architectural design program that already existed. We learn the skills and now we use the application. From here, [students] can move into an apprenticeship and begin to think about if I don’t decide [to go] to college or if it’s not an option for me, here is another option. Or, if I do decide to go to college, I can be an architect.

**On this CTE program helping students perform better in the classroom within core school subjects:**

**Bacchus:** It does ... help with their mathematics and their basic skills building. As we know, students who have come in from traditional schools – we know that other schools have failed them. They come here, they are underperforming in math or underperforming in reading. A lot of the components [of ACAD] help them build foundational skills in math to help support [work] in algebra and geometry specifically, because a lot of those math skills talk about angles and what it means to have a perimeter. All of these things are now applied and [students] see the connection. There is an application component to what we learn every day.

**Talking of a “new day” for students, the community and school, as historically, skilled trades have faced negative stereotypes, pushback from parents and sometimes an uphill battle within D.C. Public Schools:**

**Bacchus:** I do think it’s a new day. I totally agree about construction – and all of the trades – having that negative connotation, primarily because they’re looked at as being blue-collar jobs. And what schools and education have pushed is: “We have to go to college.” They don’t recognize there are other skills that students can possess and be professional. [T]here is value in working hard and being part of rebuilding the community. My vision for our students is to be able to do that within their own communities.

It is a new day for educating our parents on what [skilled trades] means by sending memos out, meeting with them during orientation and talking about what it means to have a career in technical education. It is not what you [know], the implied meaning of it. It means that your children can have a career. If they choose to, they can go and get technical training or they can still go to college. And on top of that, they mine new skills that they’re building along the way, helping to support what they’re already doing in their core academic programming. Our students are now going back and talking to their parents too, and saying: “This is what we’re really doing and I really love it!” When I was initially met with opposition when placing students in classes that they may not have chosen because they didn’t want to do this, they came back and said, “Don’t take me out, I love this class.” It’s a paradigm shift for our students and our parents.

*JOBS Coalition Pathways spoke with IDEA PCS Principal Lanette Bacchus during the ribbon cutting for the Academy of Construction and Design. This interview has been edited for content and clarity. □*

# THE MARGARET I KNEW

By Carol Randolph

Ida Margaret White was born on Aug. 1, 1924 and died on March 19, 2016, leaving this world and our organization, the JOBS Coalition, much richer because of her presence and wisdom.

Margaret, as she preferred to be called, was an active board member of both the JOBS Coalition and the DC Students Construction Trades Foundation for over 12 years. To each organization, she brought a wealth of knowledge on housing issues gleaned from her longstanding and varied career at the Department of Housing and Urban Development. That experience – coupled with her unwavering commitment to help the underserved – made her a strong advocate for the goals of our organizations, which were to find sustainable employment for the unemployed and build bright futures for young people.

Margaret rarely missed a meeting or event. Although the only female member serving on both boards, she was never afraid to express or offer constructive criticism to fellow board members if she felt it was warranted.

I will always remember the time Margaret abruptly interrupted a Meet the Future Luncheon, the annual fundraiser hosted by the DC Students Construction Trades Foundation. During the event, one or more students enrolled in the Academy of Construction and Design is awarded a Norman Dreyfuss scholarship. That year's winner failed to thank Mr. Dreyfuss for establishing the award, and the panel for selecting him as the winner. Margaret publicly admonished the student for not showing the proper appreciation. Needless to say, that was the last time that omission occurred.

She was smart, tough and feisty, but also funny – and a stylish dresser. I never saw her in the same outfit twice, and she believed in accessorizing and wearing the latest suits and dresses. These attributes just touch on who she was as a person.

We were lucky to have her in our lives. She was an outstanding example of “wearing out rather than rusting out,” as the saying goes. Margaret White, you will truly be missed. □

*Carol Randolph, chief operations officer for the DC Students Construction Trades Foundation, is co-founder of the Academy of Construction and Design and an adviser to the JOBS Coalition.*



**FACE TIME I.** Margaret White chats up Academy of Construction and Design Director Shelly Karriem (far left) and Miller & Long Chairman John McMahon (center) during the 2013 Meet the Future Luncheon.



**COMMUNITY 'STALWART'** White (right) in 2007 at the ACAD ribbon-cutting ceremony at Cardozo Senior High School.

## Reflections *Continued from page 2*

**McMahon:** She had a presence and she was very elegant and had a lot of personal grace. You could tell she was an important person and kind of transcended into our world from the greatest generation – that certainly would have applied to her. She was very passionate about the things she thought were important, and she certainly thought education and working with young people were important. She was [also] ... as we all were, very discouraged about the state of public

education. She came through public education and was one of the most educated persons I've ever met in many, many ways. She was trying to make a difference.

### *What issue was she most passionate about when working with the JOBS Coalition?*

**Tucker:** In my opinion, she was most passionate about the work the coalition was doing with “ex-offender reentry.” She was not at all comfortable with the difficulties they were experiencing getting jobs after they had paid their

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## JOBS Coalition Pathways

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### Reflections *Continued from page 3*

debts to society. She was also passionate about the challenges they were facing in obtaining affordable housing, since that was her specialty with the federal government. She felt they should be given every opportunity to be successful. Virginia's latest law giving ex-felons who have finished their sentences the right to vote would have been cause for Margaret to rejoice.

*What did you learn about her as a person from serving together on the board?*

**Tucker:** I recognized that Margaret had her priorities straight. She loved God first and that love for God naturally spilled over to a love for humanity and one's neighbor. She would often quote her own mother and apply it to situations of the present. I also learned that she had a "never give up" attitude

and spirit, which manifested itself through the contributions she made to address issues faced by the board. She would often say, "We have to get to the bottom of this!" Finally, I learned that age was not going to deprive her of the opportunity to serve. She once said, "I'd rather wear out than rust out!"

**McMahon:** If she thought something was not going right, that warm smile disappeared and a stern look came on her face – and she was all business about correcting what she thought wasn't coming down right. So she could be both people, and change quickly. I think that's probably what I admired about her the most, that she didn't get hoodwinked about anything. She was right on the job. Great lady. I do miss her. She was always a champion of what we're trying to do. □

*This piece has been edited for content and clarity.*

## JOBS COALITION PROMISES

- Provide opportunities for District residents to secure gainful employment.
- Remove barriers that prevent meaningful employment.
- Provide educational and training opportunities for all District residents interested in pursuing careers in various industries and trades.
- Work toward the creation of a comprehensive, fair, and more open system of training and hiring the underserved, unemployed and returning ex-offenders.
- Ensure that the training and educational skills being taught are relevant to the job market of today and tomorrow.
- Engage elected and appointed officials to support legislation and maintain appropriate oversight to ensure gainful employment for District residents, including the underserved, unemployed, and returning ex-offenders.

## JOBS COALITION MISSION STATEMENT

**W**e will work together to develop a long-term strategy that creates an environment where aspiring District residents will have unprecedented opportunity to succeed. We strive to create a fair and open system, supported by government, industry, employers and the education and faith-based communities, which seeks to properly train today's apprentices while making an unparalleled commitment to educating students and others not yet in the workforce.



**JOBS COALITION**  
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