



MCAMW & PGCPS PARTNERSHIP

“Establish and grow the next generation of our industry’s workforce.” This statement has become a paramount focus over the last several years.

According to a 2020 U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics article, “Employment in construction... is projected to grow 4% from 2019 to 2029... with anticipation of 296,300 new jobs.” Career opportunities in the mechanical construction trades bring job security, competitive compensation and benefit packages, and pride in mastering a skilled trade that will bring a lifetime of value.

The Mechanical Contractors Association of Metropolitan Washington (MCAMW), our contractor companies, and our partners at Prince George’s County Public Schools (PGCPS) are dedicated to introducing students in Career and Technical Education (CTE) Programs to different career opportunities in the HVAC & Plumbing Construction Trades.

In January 2020, the MCAMW had the pleasure of meeting with PGCPS CTE leaders, Program Director, Dr. Jean-Paul Cadet, and Instructional Specialist, Amy Rock, to discuss strategies to connect CTE students to career opportunities with MCAMW member companies. Following the meeting, the MCAMW called on association leaders to outline a plan of support.

W.L. Gary Company, Inc., an MCAMW member company, jumped at the opportunity to get involved. Creating positions specifically designed to support the initiative, W.L. Gary Company, Inc. created three positions specifically for CTE students. Starting as helpers, these three CTE students have advanced to full-time positions with W.L. Gary Company, Inc. and are in the process of becoming registered helpers with the United Association Plumbers & Gasfitters Local 5 and Steamfitters Local 602. All three students aspire to become registered apprentices.

Mike Dent, Executive Vice President of W.L. Gary Company, Inc., tailored the helper positions to highlight the students’ strengths while providing on-the-job training to develop other critical skills needed in the industry. With the program spanning over ten weeks, the students worked from June 8, 2020 through August 18, 2020 at various jobsites in the Metropolitan Washington area. Complying with the Maryland Department of Labor guidelines, the program also exceeded the minimum requirement of 450-hours of training.

To maintain records of the program and track development, the MCAMW worked closely with Scott Kellner, W.L. Gary Company, Inc. Field Super Intendent. Key focuses of these meetings included reporting the hours and locations of the work performed, recording notes on performance and achievements, and reviewing the training components of the program to ensure they meet state and local guidelines. These meetings helped to confirm that each student was successfully learning and applying their CTE skills and knowledge to the job.

This program and the initiative support an industry-wide drive to connect students to careers in the skilled trades. As we continue to grow and strengthen our partnerships with industry advocates, we look forward to celebrating the success of talented students who are dedicating their skills to advancing the mechanical construction industry.

GET INVOLVED

Are you an MCAMW member company or student interested in getting involved?
Reach out to us!

Contact **Hannah Inman** at
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for more information.