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ABC Western Pennsylvania Receives State Approval for Heavy Equipment Operator Apprenticeship Program

PITTSBURGH, PA — Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Pennsylvania (ABC Western PA) is proud to announce that its Heavy Equipment Operator Apprenticeship Program has officially received approval from the Pennsylvania Apprenticeship Council.

This milestone marks a major advancement in ABC Western PA’s ongoing commitment to workforce development and the expansion of skilled craft training opportunities throughout the region. The newly approved program will provide member contractors with the ability to train and develop highly skilled heavy equipment operators through a structured, industry-driven apprenticeship model rooted in merit shop principles.

“This is an exciting achievement for our chapter and our members,” said Justin Erdner, President of ABC Western PA. “The approval of this program strengthens our mission of developing a world-class construction workforce in Western Pennsylvania while creating new opportunities for contractors to invest in the next generation of craft professionals.”

ABC Western PA also recognized the leadership and dedication of Matt Waltman, Director of Education & Workforce Development, whose efforts were instrumental in bringing the program from concept to approval.

“Matt’s expertise, persistence, and commitment to workforce development played a critical role in making this program a reality,” Erdner added. “This achievement would not have been possible without his hard work and dedication to our members and industry.”

The Heavy Equipment Operator Apprenticeship Program is designed to help contractors build a sustainable pipeline of skilled operators through hands-on training, classroom instruction, and real-world jobsite experience.

Member companies interested in utilizing the program or enrolling apprentices are encouraged to contact:

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Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Pennsylvania is a construction industry trade association representing merit shop contractors, subcontractors, suppliers, and industry professionals across Western Pennsylvania. ABC Western PA is committed to workforce development, safety, education, and advancing free enterprise within the construction industry.

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