



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 9, 2023

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DISTRICT, CARPENTERS UNION ANNOUNCE PARTNERSHIP TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION CAREERS

Students in Kennedy High School's Construction Trades pathway to gain practical experience

Photos attached: see end of the release for details.

PATERSON – District and city officials welcomed representatives of the Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters (EASRCC) to John F. Kennedy High School to announce a new partnership that will prepare students for careers in construction.

“The announcement we’re making today is not just about building buildings or houses. It’s about building futures,” said Superintendent of Schools Eileen F. Shafer. “We know there is a demand for carpenters. Perhaps more importantly, we know that the people who work in the construction trades have high rates of job satisfaction. The students who are here with us today are on the precipice of starting tremendous lives, and with the help of the carpenters union, they will have an even better chance of achieving those lives.”

The partnership involves Kennedy High School using the “Career Connections” curriculum for the students in the construction trades pathway. The curriculum was created by instructors from the United Brotherhood of Carpenters International Training Program and approved by the Paterson Board of Education. It is designed to introduce high school students to the crafts and trades of carpentry. The curriculum, combined with EASRCC’s assistance, will expose students to everything they would need while deciding the next step in their education.

Students who want to continue their education in the trades will be provided the opportunity to learn at one of three New Jersey Carpenters Training Centers where they will join a four-year apprenticeship at no cost to them and the ability to earn money while learning their craft.

“Your advocacy to bring the Carpenters’ Union ‘Career Connections’ curriculum to Kennedy High School shows that you all care about the good-paying career paths union trades bring to everyday families,” said Tom Wyzga, an EASRCC council representative. “I can directly point to my apprenticeship through the union for my personal success and the well-being of my family. That is why we, as a union, do not only advocate for apprenticeships, fair wages, and benefits for construction workers but why we also created this nationally recognized curriculum. It truly is an equal path to college for any student who is looking for a good-paying career.”

Representatives of the Paterson Education Association (PEA) also participated in the announcement. The PEA has made a generous donation of new work boots to Kennedy High School students preparing for the construction trades.

“This is exactly how partnerships should operate,” said PEA President John McEntee. “As I look at our students wearing the work boots that were donated by the PEA, I see students who are going to go out into the workplace. They’re going to further their education. And they’re going to make a great, great difference hopefully in the city of Paterson for a long time to come.”

Mayor Andre Sayegh, whose father is a 78-year-old carpenter, said the future for carpenters is bright in the City of Paterson.

“As long as Paterson is in growth mode, we’re going to need carpenters,” said Sayegh, putting his hands on the shoulders of two students in hard hats and work boots who were standing near the podium. “I’m proud of this most recent partnership. Carpenters matter. Carpenters count. Because you can’t build anything without carpenters.”

About Paterson Public Schools

Paterson Public Schools serves 25,000 students pre-K to 12th grade in New Jersey’s third-largest city. While the Paterson community may be classified as low-income, many of its students are high-achieving. More elementary school students are reading at or above grade level, and more high school students are earning college credits through Advanced Placement exams and taking college-level courses before graduation. Paterson Public Schools stands out as one of only 17 school districts in New Jersey that offer the competitive International Baccalaureate program, and one of only four districts with a P-TECH high school, a program that, in collaboration with IBM and Passaic County Community College, graduates students with an associate degree in applied science and practical tech sector experience.

About The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters

The Eastern Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters represents about 13,000 union carpenters in New Jersey and over 42,000 of the who live and work in Delaware, The District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia. EAS Carpenters are trained in many different trades, including commercial/residential carpentry; heavy highway; piling; floor-layering; mill cabinet work; and tradeshow construction.

Photo 1: Superintendent Shafer, center, addresses student Angel Cruz. Behind them are Kennedy High School Supervisor Martine Grant, left, and student Carlos Gutierrez.

Photo 2: EASRCC Representative Tom Wyzga gives remarks as Superintendent Shafer and student Carlos Gutierrez listen.

Photo 3: Assistant Superintendent Cicely Warren gives remarks as students Angel Cruz, left, and Jahniah Hudson listen.

Photo 4: PEA President John McEntee gives remarks as students Angel Cruz, left, and Jahniah Hudson listen.