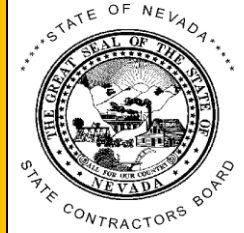




NSCB News Release



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EDUCATION COMMISSION AWARDS MORE THAN \$170,000 IN GRANTS

HENDERSON, Nev. – At its November 19 meeting, the Nevada State Contractors Board’s Commission on Construction Education awarded more than \$170,000 to non-profit agencies, schools and programs for educational endeavors for students and young professionals.

The largest grant - \$43,000 – went to Reno’s Academy for Construction Education to kick start a program in which advanced ACE High School students will build small houses that will be sold at auction. School officials noted that the project will provide students real-world experience in estimating and material ordering, along with building methods and code compliance. They said the 800-square-foot homes will sell for more than they cost to build, allowing the project to become self-funded after the first year. The Commission grant represents about half of the program’s start-up costs.

The Associated General Contractors, Las Vegas Chapter, received \$40,800 to continue its industry training program. Executive Director Sean Stewart said some of the money will be used to help disadvantaged business enterprises become competitive and current on industry practices in anticipation of an increase in road maintenance and construction projects as additional revenue becomes available via indexing of the state’s fuel tax. The focused training areas will include accounting and finance, business law, safety and training, construction management and scheduling. Other courses will include building information modeling and OSHA training.

The Commission also voted to allocate \$28,229 to AGC to purchase construction textbooks for Clark County School District schools. The books, which will be purchased from the National Center for Construction Education and Research, will teach students practical skills, plan reading, and finish carpentry, among other applications over three courses. The books are expected to last five to seven years. The Commission’s grant will augment a similar donation from the International Code Council.

(more)

The Commission awarded the UNLV Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Construction \$41,000 to equip a dedicated teaching lab for engineering and construction management students.

Local organizers of the Future Cities competition received \$15,000. They said the local competition challenges more than 1,000 students – about half are girls – in 13 middle schools to conceive and design sustainable cities. The money will provide event-day needs, teacher stipends, student prizes and travel to national competitions for local winners.

Desert Research Institute received \$10,500 for use in its Renewable Energy Deployment and Display Facility, which facilitates research and highlights developments and inventions pertaining to renewable energy technologies. Programs help teachers and students learn about solar wind and thermal energy. The money will be used for teaching materials, student visits to the facility, and travel for discussions in schools. Other funds could be used to host a solar air collector competition for ACE High School.

Funds allocated by the Commission on Construction Education come from donations and fines the Board collects from licensed contractors for violations of the state's building law. Since its inception in 2001, it has awarded more than \$2.5 million in grants. The Commission consists of one member from the Nevada State Contractors Board and six members appointed by the governor. Four members represent the construction industry and the other two have knowledge of construction education programs.

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