
DAVID R. CRAIG
HARFORD COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Richard D. Lynch
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS,
LICENSES AND PERMITS

MARY F. CHANCE
DIRECTOR OF ADMINISTRATION

Richard C. Truitt, Sr.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF INSPECTIONS,
LICENSES AND PERMITS

HARFORD COUNTY GOVERNMENT

February 22, 2011

Ms. Sara Yerkes
Senior Vice President, Government Relations
International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Harford Tech Day at ICC Headquarters

Dear Ms. Yerkes:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you and all of the ICC Staff in Washington, D.C. that helped make the Harford Tech students' day at ICC Headquarters so successful. As you know, the students that were present were the first group to receive recognition from the State of Maryland and MBOA as being proficient in their area of expertise with 2009 International Residential Code. Your assistance and gracious hospitality to host this event was very fitting. I am sure the time that you and the ICC staff spent with the students was well received on their part.

Since the efforts of Mr. Jim Ellwood were initiated locally in this endeavor a few years ago at Harford Tech, the program has already seen expansion into Washington County, Maryland with much more interest being expressed by other Maryland County School systems and the School system in York County, Pennsylvania.

Again, I would like to thank you and the ICC staff, not only as the Deputy Code Official for Harford County, Maryland but also as the Maryland Building Officials Association President for making this such a successful event. I sincerely hope that this may be a catalyst of a national program to be developed and backed further by ICC. Programs such as this will play a very important part in developing the future of our next generation of Code Officials. I look forward to possibly continuing this event in years to come.

Sincerely,

Richard C. Truitt, Sr.
Deputy Director / MBOA President

cc: Richard P. Wieland, Chief Executive Officer, ICC
Jimmy Brothers, President, ICC Board of Directors

~ Preserving Harford's past; promoting Harford's future ~

(410) 638-3366

MY DIRECT PHONE NUMBER IS

220 SOUTH MAIN STREET BEL AIR, MARYLAND 21014 410.638.3000 • 410.879.2000 • TTY 410.638.3086 • www.harfordcountymd.gov

THIS DOCUMENT IS AVAILABLE IN ALTERNATIVE FORMAT UPON REQUEST.



International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20001
tel: 888 icc safe (422 7233)
tel: 202 370 1800
fax: 202 783 2348
www.iccsafe.org

November 14, 2011

James Ellwood
Senior Plans Examiner
Building Services Division
220 South Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Re: High School Technical Training Program

Dear Jim:

Thank you for being part of the official announcement of the International Code Council's (ICC) High School Technical Training Program at the Government Relations Forum held during the ICC Annual Business Meeting in Phoenix this past November 1st. I am pleased with the progress we have made in formally institutionalizing the program and appreciate the work and time you have personally and professionally given to this effort.

The value of teaching the model construction codes, such as the International Residential Code, to high school students in technical programs is significant. These students will move forward in their chosen careers, whether in the building trades, architecture, or engineering with the advantage of a combination hands-on building experience and an understanding of the codes used as the basis for construction regulations used in all 50 states and by Federal agencies like Departments of Defense, State, and Housing as well as by the General Services Administration, FEMA, the Architect of the US Capitol and more.

The Code Council's goal is to encourage high schools across the country to embrace similar programs. It will be an honor to recognize the students who successfully complete all program elements and pass the relevant tests with an ICC Certificate of Achievement.

On behalf of ICC, I commend you for your dedication to this program and I am looking forward to working with you to expand the ICC program.

Sincerely,

Sara Yerkes
Senior Vice President
Government Relations

August 24, 2012

Mr. James Elwood
Harford County Government
Dept. of Inspections, Licenses & Permits
220 S. Main Street
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Re: Building Codes

Dear Jim,

I am very enthusiastic about your program to teach building codes to students. It will serve as a strong foundation for them to know the logic behind the codes, how they apply, which books to look in and where, etc. Most of what I learned about building codes over the years was from plan reviewers like yourself, especially on critical items. It can be tricky, so learning the fundamentals would be extremely valuable to anyone planning a career in construction, architecture, inspection, etc. I wish I had that starting out!



Paul J. Gorman, Architect



*Now More Than Ever,
Help Build It!*

July 31, 2012

Jim Ellwood
Consultant to ICC
High School Technical Training Program
One Vaughn Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Dear Jim:

On behalf of Habitat for Humanity Susquehanna, I am pleased to offer this letter in support of the ICC's Technical Training Program for high school students. Working with you and our local technical high school for many years building homes for low-income families has given us particular satisfaction.

Years ago, the students at Harford Technical High School in Bel Air, MD were merely building and tearing apart wall sections for their hands on learning. Today, they're designing, supervising, and building entire homes. Because of these builds, the students have received invaluable hands-on experience, built their knowledge base, and graduated from high school with marketable skills.

Adding the building code training to the students' curriculum several years ago has no doubt enhanced their high school careers, and prepared them even further for their future in a variety of construction related fields.

Watching the students' broaden their knowledge of the building codes through this program has been especially gratifying. Thank you for your part in this outstanding program. It is a pleasure to work with you and affect the future in such a positive way.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dave Guttman", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Dave Guttman
Director of Construction



Architecture by Design

September 28, 2012

Mr. James Ellwood
1 Vaughn Avenue
Bel Air, Maryland 21014

Re: High School Technical Training Program

Dear Jim:

I have reviewed the materials you sent as well as the links online to the High School Technical Training program and I am truly impressed. Having been a licensed architect for over 23 years, I find it refreshing that the schools are interested in providing practical training to High School students that are interested in the field of design and construction. This is a much needed area that often gets overlooked in many college Architecture programs throughout the entire United States. I believe in the quest to churn out design professionals with a good eye for design, the technical side of things sometimes takes a back seat. In my opinion to become a truly good designer you need to understand the basics of how things go together along with understand the "how's and whys" of the building code.

My background is very non-traditional in that I did not attend a 4 year university and receive my Bachelor of Architecture or any degree for that matter. I attended a technical school and received a Diploma in Architectural Technology. In plain speak, I learned how to draft. I was fortunate enough to land a job with a company that my supervisor owned a home building business too. He allowed me to draft house plans for him and took me to project sites so I could see how things really worked and took the time to explain why we needed stairs to be a particular dimension or why we needed egress windows in the bedrooms. This I believe was key to my development of becoming an Architect with real practical knowledge. My next employer was very similar. His mantra was "You don't design until you know how and why." I owe my knowledge to these very unique individuals that I was fortunate enough to cross their paths.

Now nearly 30 years after my first "real job" post tech school, I have my own business. I employ 8 people that also share in my values. When I am interviewing prospective hires whether entry level or higher I want to be sure I have individuals in my firm that have this very important segment of knowledge. Aesthetics and design are just one component of Architecture. The other 95% is the less glamorous practical side which consists of building code, structures and engineering. I do not subscribe to "they'll figure it out in the field" philosophy. We are being paid as design professionals to design buildings that are not only aesthetically pleasing but functional, safe for the inhabitants and constructible.

For these reasons I applaud you and this program for the goals you are trying to achieve.

Regards,

Judith A. Miller, AIA, NCARB, CDT, LEED AP BD+C
Principal
JM/

• 9005 Chevrolet Drive, Suite 5 • Ellicott City, MD 21042 • p(410) 480-3210 • f(410) 480-2480 • ABD-Architects.com •

Dear Mr. Ellwood,

My name is Ryan Jaeger, and I work for ClearSpan Fabric Structures, which is a division of Engineering Services and Products Company (ESAPCO). Clearspan designs, engineers, manufactures, and builds steel structures. ClearSpan structures are very popular in the United States as well as in many other countries around the world. ClearSpan's structures can be used for an infinite number of possibilities. Some of the more common uses include agricultural facilities, sand and salt storage buildings, and athletic facilities. ClearSpan is an American company that has been in business for more than 30 years.

I have read and reviewed the documents sent to me, and I firmly believe that it is highly beneficial (and recommended) to teach building codes to high school students while they are learning their trade. The sooner that students are exposed to building codes, the greater their understanding can be. It is very important to establish a younger generation that is knowledgeable in the building codes that govern our nation's infrastructure. After all, they will be responsible in the future for maintaining the safety, health, and welfare of our nation's (and even other nation's) infrastructure. The importance of learning about building codes may not be fully evident until one has entered into a career or applied for a job. Having an IRC certification would be a great accomplishment to add to a resume.

One of the National Society of Professional Engineer's (Code of Ethics for Engineers) Fundamental Canons is:

"Hold paramount the safety, health, and welfare of the public."

This Canon reaffirms the significant importance of understanding building codes and how those building codes affect design. Properly interpreting and understanding building codes is required on a daily basis in my department at ClearSpan. ClearSpan's engineering department frequently contacts building officials to ensure our structures are engineered to the proper design loads.

Construction classes teaching building codes were not available at my high school, but they would have been of great value to me, especially considering I would enter a career in engineering. A previous knowledge base in building codes and commentaries (and how to navigate through them) would have greatly helped me as I first started my career. One important thing that I realized after starting my career is that it is impossible to memorize all building code provisions, but having the ability to navigate the codes and understand where to find the necessary provisions is very important.

In conclusion, I fully support ICC's certification program, and I would encourage anybody entering the construction industry to take advantage of this excellent opportunity.

Ryan Jaeger, E.I.T.
ESAPCO
rjaeger@esapco.com



ryanhomes.com

August 15, 2012

Harford County Maryland
Building Services
Attention: James Ellwood
220 South Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014-3820

Re: ICC Code Training

Dear Mr. Ellwood,

Ryan Homes has been in the residential construction field for over 60 years. We are the #1 Home Builder in the Baltimore/Washington Metropolitan Area and the 4th largest in the Nation. Ryan Homes is known for unparalleled customer service, innovative designs, quality in construction, affordable prices, and desirable communities in prime locations. We have also continuously recognized the importance of a knowledgeable and educated employee base and we invest a significant amount of efforts in developing our staff to be the best in the industry.

The introduction of the ICC code training into the technical high school curriculum is an exceptional idea and it follows our view of continued education. Understanding how to read the International Code would benefit future employees and subcontractors. Code is a crucial part of our business and the ICC training would provide a strong foundation for the students. Ryan Homes would encourage and support this concept.

Sincerely,



Kevin C Harris
Production Manager
Ryan Homes

8019 Corporate Drive, Suite A * Baltimore, MD 21236 * 410-931-6833 * FAX 410-931-6839

Gaudreau, Inc.

October 19, 2012

James Ellwood
IRC Consultant to the ICC HSTPP
One Vaughn Avenue
Bel Air, MD 21024

Dear Mr. Ellwood:

Architects

Planners

Engineers

ACE Mentoring is a national program serving high school students interested in pursuing careers in architecture, construction and engineering. Gaudreau, Inc. has been a part of the ACE Mentoring Program for nearly a decade and has seen a number of its participants go on to successful careers in all of the above noted fields.

At Gaudreau, our main goal in participating in ACE is to enable students to make informed career decisions and to ensure that there is a continuous stream of bright students choosing to enter construction related fields. The majority students, when asked, have a predictably inaccurate impression of what actually goes on in the design process. The notion of a “design team” working collaboratively to achieve a common goal is completely foreign to most high school students. More often than not, they assume that they will be working on designs autonomously as opposed to being rationed specific tasks that will further the ultimate goal of the team. The team approach is the model that we follow with the students and we’ve had a great amount of success employing that approach.

I believe that the ICC’s High School Technical Training Program is a fantastic stand-alone entity but would also serve as a great companion program to ACE Mentoring. It is yet another component of the construction business that most students do not take into account and will certainly further *our* goal of enabling students to make informed career choices. As a project architect with an eye on the future of the construction industry, I whole heartedly endorse the ICC HSTTP and will be glad to do anything I can to give the program additional exposure and link it up with the ACE Mentoring Program.

Sincerely,



Jim Sheehan, Assoc. AIA
Project Architect



Charles G. Hagan
Principal

Wanita Fleury
Assistant Principal

Lari Dunlap
Assistant Principal

Dear Jim,

On behalf of my students and I, we would like to say ***Thank You!***

Your dedication to help the Construction/Carpentry Division at Harford Technical High School over the past 5+ years is sincerely appreciated. We are so grateful for your expertise and time you have devoted as a member of the Carpentry Program Advisory Committee.

Supporting our efforts in **GREEN** construction practices with Harford Habitat for Humanity, and the many projects we have done over the years, helps build student skill levels and their portfolios. The opportunity you presented to our students to benefit from a certification process in the IRC was not only unique, but highly successful. This program will grow from the seed you planted at HTHS.

My carpentry Juniors and Seniors wanted to give you something in return. [Please see all attachments]. We look forward to your continued support. ***THANKS AGAIN!***

Respectfully Yours,

Michael J. Svezze Jr. 2/17/11 (cvz)

Michael J. Svezze Jr.

CTE Trades and Industry Instructor

Harford Technical High School



DR. DAVID W. THOMAS, DIRECTOR
2179 South Queen Street, York, PA 17402
Phone: 717.747.2125 Fax: 717.741.9803
Email: dthomas@ycstech.org

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November 22, 2012

James Ellwood
Senior Plans Examiner
Building Services Division
220 South Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Dear Jim,

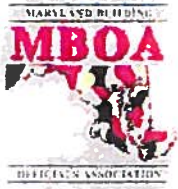
York County School of Technology is extremely excited about the valuable opportunity that you have made available to our construction students. When you first contacted me and explained this program, I knew immediately it was something of value and an opportunity we wanted to pursue. I was impressed with and thankful for your willingness to travel to our school several times to explain the International Code Council training program to our instructors and the principal responsible for these programs. I was also impressed to see you here at our annual Occupational Advisory Committee meeting night to explain the program to our advisory council members.

Now that we are involved, it is really apparent that this is a great opportunity for our students. We constantly seek out industry standard certifications for our students and are very excited about our students earning an ICC Certificate. This experience is opening our students' eyes to career avenues that they had not even heard of prior to this training.

It is apparent you are passionate about bringing this education to high school students and we are thankful that we have become involved. Thank you for making this possible at York Tech.

Sincerely,

David W. Thomas



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**P.O. Box 1028
Bel Air, MD
21014**

www.mdboa.com

August 5, 2011

Jim Ellwood
Senior Plans Reviewer, Harford County Government
220 S Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

RE: Technical High School Proficiency Achievement

Dear Mr. Ellwood,

The Maryland Building Officials Association Board of Directors is please to inform you that we have reviewed your program that works with the high school students to allow them the opportunity to become familiar with the applicable construction codes. Initiated with the students of Harford Vocational High School your efforts have been instrumental in allowing the program to grow not only within the State of Maryland but nationally with the support of the International Code Council.

This program is a key first step in developing a qualified work force for the construction and code official profession. As a student works though the program they are provided the opportunity to learn about the International Residential Code and demonstrate their proficiency in one or more of the Building, Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical code categories. That Proficiency Certification and preparation towards an IRC professional Certification offered by the International Code Council provides a student an invaluable advantage over their counterparts within the construction and code professional professions.

The MBOA Board of Directors applauds you for your efforts and looks forward to a continued partnership in sponsoring the program and supporting your efforts. If there is anything else that we as a Board can do, please feel free to contact us.

Cordially,

Richard C Truitt
President



THE TOWNSHIP OF MILLBURN

375 MILLBURN AVENUE
MILLBURN, NEW JERSEY 07041

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

(973) 584-7055
FAX: (973) 379-3927

September 1, 2011

Mr. Jim Ellwood
Senior Plans Reviewer
Harford County Government
220 South Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Re: Technical High School Proficiency Training


Dear Mr. Ellwood,

I want to take this opportunity as both a Construction Official here in the State of New Jersey as well as a member of the International Code Council's Board of Directors to congratulate you on your initiative to bring code education to the technical high schools in your area. I was proud to participate in the initial program recognizing students from the Harford Vocational High School who demonstrated technical proficiency in the construction code arena. While the program may have initiated in Maryland I am anxious to see the opportunity expanded across the Country. To that end I am writing this letter to you in support of your efforts to have this program expanded at the national level.

As a Code Professional, I feel it is essential that we foster a desire within our high school students that a career in code enforcement is just as important as other public service careers such as police or fire. After all, we are here to protect all the people who live or work within our communities.

I applaud your efforts and I fully support your initiative to promote code proficiency within our technical high schools and I stand ready to assist you in any way I can. This is a truly wonderful opportunity to make a difference and this program could not have come at a better time. Best of luck to you and I wish you much success. As always, I am ready to help, just point me in the right direction.

Sincerely,


Stephen D. Jones, CBO
Construction Official
Member, ICC BOD

Cc: Sara Yerkes, VP, ICC
Richard Truitt, President MBOA



ICC Region VII

District of Columbia, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia

October 6, 2011

Mr. Jim Ellwood
Senior Plan Reviewer, Harford County Government
220 S Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014

Re: Technical High School Proficiency Achievement

Dear Mr. Ellwood:

The Charter Members of the International Code Council Region VII, are pleased to inform you that we have reviewed your program that you initiated with the students of Harford Vocational High School to allow them the opportunity to become familiar with the applicable construction codes. Your efforts have been instrumental in allowing this program to grow not only within the State of Maryland but nationally with the support of the International Code Council.

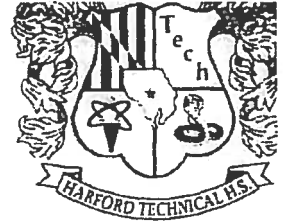
This program is a key first step in developing a qualified work force for the construction and code official profession. As a student works through the program, they are provided the opportunity to learn about the International Residential Code and demonstrate their proficiency in one or more of the Building, Plumbing, Mechanical and Electrical code categories. That proficiency and preparation towards an IRC Professional Certification offered by the International Code Council, provides a student an invaluable advantage over their counterparts within the construction and code official professions.

The Charter Members of the ICC Region VII are proud to support your efforts and look forward to continued partnership in sponsoring this program and supporting your efforts.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Day", is written over a circular stamp or seal that is partially obscured by the signature.

Joseph Day
Chairman Region VII
Land Use Administrator
87 Reeds Way
New Castle, Delaware 19720



Dear Mr. Jim Ellwood

My name is John Neal III and I am currently a senior at Harford tech. I have been project manager for two consecutive years now on the habitat house and would like to take this time to share my appreciation with you. You have continued to support us and help keep our homes progress flowing. Since we started the curriculum the IRC book and how to go about reading and comprehending it, I have been able to work with ease and answer most of my own questions I would have had my previous years at tech. Before learning the code book I was under the assumption that it really was not that important, but after taking the time to study it and be taught on it I now realize the significance of the codes and how it can make or break even the smallest of projects.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to visit the ICC in Washington. This is not only a huge step for our carpentry class, but will be the foundation for the IRC curriculum for schools around the nation. None of our recognition would have been made possible if not for your hard work and close relationship with HTHS construction. Thank you for paving the way.

Much appreciation

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John Neal III'. The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned below the printed text 'Much appreciation'.

Dear Mr. Jim Ellwood,

My name is Dylan Wuerfl and I go to Harford Technical High School as an 11th grader. My education is a value to me and my future especially my Tech area. My tech area is Carpentry and my instructors name is Mr. Svezese. Mr. Svezese has made our class work on IRC which helps us to better understand the codes for working on a specific project like the "Habitat for Humanity House". He informed us recently that You have giving us the opportunity, which was a success, in the IRC test. Me and my classmates want to thank you very much for this because you made us the first couple of people to set an example and prove that the IRC test and codes are very important to Me and everyday workers for safety. This Knowledge has made my class a better team and we learned the practices for working more safely on the "Habitat for Humanity House". My future Job is to work in the field with my own company for construction and teach people how to build to the best of their abilities. Thank You so much for the opportunity for the making of history.

Sincerely, Dylan Wuerfl



February 15th 2011

Mr. Ellwood

Hi, my name is Jeremy Hinman and I am a Junior at Hartford Technical High School. I am in the Carpentry program and am currently working on the Habitat Base. I personally would like to thank you for this wonderful opportunity to be involved in the Demo group for the ICC. I think it is great experience for me and my classmates to be using the code and looking up information that we need to complete projects at our school. I know that is very practical and can be used in everyday life. This experience has been terrific.

Sincerely,
Jeremy Hinman

2-15-11

Dear Mr. Jim Ellwood

Hi I am Travis Ellinger a student in Carpentry at Hartford Technical High School. I'm glad you and the rest of you officers chose our school for IBC. I learned a whole bunch of different things from the book about carpentry. For example a habitable room can only be a maximum of 7 feet tall for someone to live in. If I do not know a side I will go back to the book to remember it. I did not think we would need the book but the book came in very handy when we are building Habitat for Humanity. Anthony Kehoe and I are building press boxes for the little league for Ripken Stadium. I would like to thank you for picking our school out of all of the schools in the country. I am glad to be apart of this history in the making. I hope you like all of the letters.

Sincerely,

Travis Ellinger