

# ICC's High School Technical Training Program Receives Chapter, Member Support

By Jim Ellwood

The ICC High School Technical Training Program (HSTTP) has been operational for three years, with more than 40 schools participating and student membership has grown to near 800. This would not have been possible without the hard work and effort by ICC Members around the country who have embraced the program.

ICC's Government Relations staff has been working with our local and regional Chapter members to arrange visits to technical schools around the country and introduce the HSTTP. Information about participating schools, students and instructors may be found on the [ICC website](#), along with additional information about the program.

Both the Obama administration and private sector organizations in the construction industry have noted that there is a need for skilled building trade professionals, and cities

Educating the Future of  
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The first students at York County School of Technology (YCST) to receive the COA. The students are on and in front of the press and observation building they constructed on their athletic field.

across the U.S. need to reinvigorate their vocational training programs to help supply this demand. Our HSTTP program mentors and encourages young people to pursue careers in construction-related fields. The U.S. needs dynamic innovators to create and sustain our built environment with advanced technologies and methodologies compliant with strong building codes. We want future generations in America to continue building upon what has been achieved to date, and to continue leading in code development and administration, engineering, building design, plumbing, carpentry,

iron work and in all other building disciplines.

Our HSTTP goal is to keep the momentum going by building upon the dedication of the code officials who have worked diligently to get this program integrated into their local technical high schools.

I'd like to mention a few success stories and the people behind them.

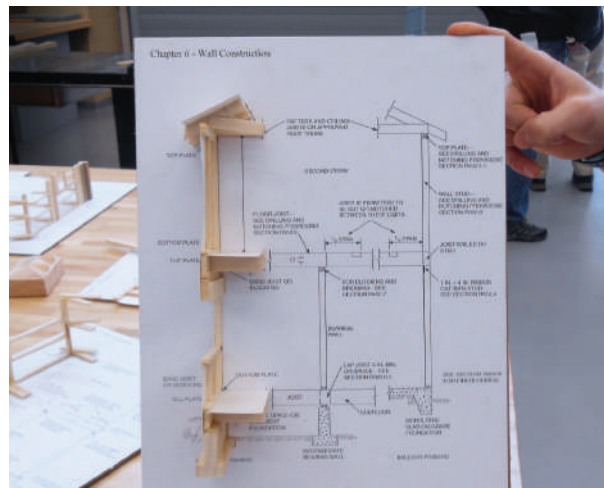
- In 2013, the **Maryland Building Officials Association** established the MBOA/ HSTTP scholarship fund. This year, they awarded their first scholarship to a graduating senior having received the

HSTTP Certificate of Achievement in one or more disciplines.

- The **Southern Nevada Chapter of ICC (SNICC)**, through the vision of Mike Teemant, Plans Examiner in Las Vegas, funded a program at East Career and Technical Academy (ECTA). While in their first year under the guidance of the schools carpentry instructor Fausto Vega, 35 students passed the final exam and received a COA in the building discipline. The following year, the SNICC, in an unprecedented move, set aside \$21,000 to fund eight additional schools. We applauded this group of code officials for their vision for the future and the opportunities they have provided to the youth of Nevada. Code Council Board of Directors President Stephen D. Jones, CBO, traveled to Las Vegas to visit ECTA and congratulate the SNICC on a job well done.
- The **Rhode Island Building Officials Association (RIBOA)** has supported this program. "Rhode Island Building Officials Association recognizes the importance of this program, which introduces the students to the *International Residential Code (IRC)* in conjunction with their construction trades training," said Association Secretary Wayne Pimental, CBO. With the support of Chapter President William Nash, the RIBOA has encouraged local jurisdictions



This Construction Kids segment ran on local television in Harford, Md. The students from Harford Technical High School were the first school to participate in the HSTTP. Construction Kids will be a regularly occurring segment on the station.



Sollers Point Technical school in Maryland uses Chapter 6 wall design to make a model typical cross section that identifies the building components.



Pictured here from left to right are Jim Ellwood; Wayne Pimental, Secretary; Bill Nash, President; and Tom Difusco, Vice President of the Rhode Island Building Officials Association.

statewide to reach out to the local technical schools and introduce the HSTTP. ICC was proud to recognize Rhode Island as the first state in the nation to have 100 percent of their technical high schools participating in the HSTTP. We commend the RIBOA on their perseverance in achieving such a goal.

- Marc St. Jean, Plans Examiner and Field Inspector in Kent County, Del., and President of the Delaware Building Officials Association,

and the Chapter's staff and members has been working for more than a year to get the HSTTP program started in technical schools. Through Marc's determination, a successful meeting was arranged with the instructors at Polytech High School. Robert Bogdziewicz, the computer and drafting instructor, decided to have his senior class tackle the code book. Robert challenged his students on several levels. One task was to have his students make their projects code compliant during their design process. The students constructed a scale model home that included a code-compliant spiral staircase. Another project had them use the Spanish Constructionaries they received from the ICC and IRC code book to design a code-compliant shore home with the written design in Spanish.

Marc and I were present for the first HSTTP exam given in a Delaware technical school. Four students in the senior drafting class passed and received their Certifi-



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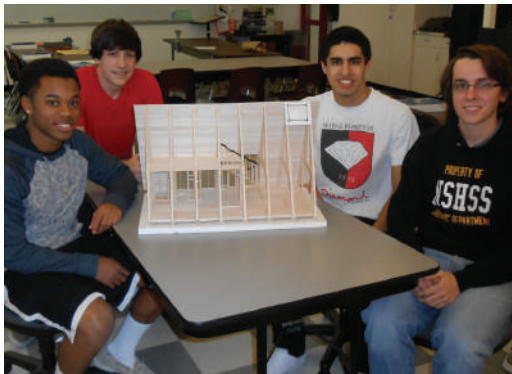
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Students from Polytech High School in Delaware who received the first COAs. From left to right: Marc St. Jean, Code Official and President of DBOA, students—Justice Calderon, Dalton Biron, Andrew Plummer, Megan Beachy and CADD instructor Robert Bogdziewicz.



Students from Delaware with their scale model home and spiral staircase. Students Justice Calderon, Dalton Biron, Chris Cote and Steven Wiltshire.

cate of Achievement from the ICC. Several more students were scheduled to take the exam before the end of this (2014) school year. Marc St. Jean's diligence and relationship with Polytech facilitated the program's acceptance in Delaware schools and are spawning additional tech schools in Delaware to review our program.

- Mike Monahan, a code official in **Jefferson County, W.V.**, and several of his colleagues participate every year in West Virginia's SkillsUSA competition for technical high schools. Monahan judges the plumbing competition, and he also writes the exam and produces the plumbing project. Monahan first invited me and ICC Board Member Guy Tomberlin to a SkillsUSA competition at James Rumsey Technical High School three years ago. I have attended every year since, and he, along with Monahan and his fellow code officials, have been discussing

the HSTTP with the various schools instructors. Jack Jamison from the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI), along with Mike, have been advocating for the HSTTP to the West Virginia Department of Education and the Career and Technical Educators (CTE). Their efforts offered an opportunity to meet with and discuss the HSTTP with the Director of the CTE curriculum for the entire state of West Virginia. They, as many of the schools in our program, were impressed with the way the ICC structured its program to meet the needs of their students, and the flexibility allotted to the instructors to customize their teaching techniques. Currently, West Virginia is reviewing the HSTTP with regard to starting the program this coming school year as a statewide program.

We have learned a lot in the past three years about the various school systems and the character and commitment of our Members in providing the industry's future workforce with the code education they will need to succeed in their careers. The ICC thanks our code officials for realizing the importance of this program and look forward to the day when some of these students participate in the national model code development process. We invite you to take a few minutes and visit our [website](#). Consider reaching out to your local schools to discuss opportunities to start a High School Technical Training Program there. Your regional ICC Government Representative can provide additional information about the program, or you can contact Sara Yerkes [syerkes@iccsafe.org](mailto:syerkes@iccsafe.org) or me at [jellwood@iccsafe.org](mailto:jellwood@iccsafe.org). **bsj**

*Jim Ellwood is a liaison for the Code Council's High School Technical Training Program.*



Students in West Virginia working on the project designed by Mike Monahan for the SkillsUSA competition.