

## **Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference Getting the HSTTP Adopted Quickly**

In early November, Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference (PENNBOC) member Samantha Everett, the Building Code Director at Swartar Township, reached out to her post-high school technical school Thaddeus Stevens in Lancaster, Pennsylvania to initiate discussion regarding code-relevant training. After mentioning ICC's High School Technical Training Program (HSTTP), which has expanded into the post-secondary arena, she received a positive response and it was off to the races to get the program adopted.

Everett reached out to PENNBOC for help. Gil Longwell, Administrator to PENNBOC, reached out to Jim Ellwood, ICC's HSTTP Liaison, for information in order to formulate a plan for a presentation, explaining that PENNBOC would take the lead to provide the personal touch within the Pennsylvania communities, using the local code officials as initial contacts and mentors to their schools.

Less than a week later, Everett arranged a December meeting with the Vice President for Academic Affairs and the Director of Career Services at Thaddeus Stevens. Ellwood and four PENNBOC representatives – Everett, Longwell, John Eby, and Bill Coulson – met with them on December 15<sup>th</sup>, and to say it was a success would be an understatement. PENNBOC found a new education partner and the administrators at Thaddeus Stevens were more than excited to have Everett speak to her alma mater's students about her career and success.

After the meeting, Longwell wrote to the administrators at Thaddeus Stevens, saying, "Thank you for your hospitality and for including us in your schedule earlier today. Sam, Jim, John, Bill and I were encouraged by your level of interest and decisive action to maximize the ICC's program's exposure to your faculty. PENNBOC brought its key players to the table in order to demonstrate both our capabilities and our commitment to this partnership. We have begun brainstorming to hone our presentation on Presidents' Day. To be sure, Sam was the spark plug for this collaboration with her dual yet united loyalties to both TS and PENNBOC."

With the past year's events, both PENNBOC and the Pennsylvania Builder's Association have set a high level of commitment to educate their commonwealth's future construction professionals, and ICC looks forward to assisting them in their ambitious task.