

# State Focus

*"State happenings shared locally"*

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## Help Wanted: Plumbers and HVAC Workers!

As the Executive Director for your trade association, I am constantly being asked to speak to, contribute to, or weigh in on what is happening in the area of workforce development. I often cringe when I hear the words "workforce development" as it means I don't really have **THE** answer to the most important statement: "We need more workers!"

That being said, I do know a few things:

- The average age of a Plumbing or HVAC Contractor is 56 years old
- By the year 2020, the growth in both these fields will see a 20% jump in demand
- For every 4 contractors who retire, there will be only **ONE** there to take their place
- We need to begin to fill the pipeline yesterday!

How can PHCC help with this very important issue? We become the "go to" for all things career and trades awareness. We now have the statistical data, the job descriptions, the career path, the licensing requirements, and the career opportunities. So, why aren't they beating down our doors you ask? That answer lies in working together.

Here at PHCC we are working on providing those tools, ideas, handouts, data, posters, etc. that allow you, the local chapter member the opportunity to get involved in the career development process. School districts are begging for information and we have it for them! We just need you, the contractor to become a part of the communication. We are currently developing a "playbook" whereby schools can use PHCC as their standard for how to implement a plumbing program in their schools. From layout of the classroom and lab, to curriculum, to work opportunities for students, this resource will prove invaluable as we seek to partner with our local school systems.

### What can be done right now?

- Attend your local PHCC Chapter Meetings and keep up with what is happening on all fronts of your industry
- Participate in local area career fairs
- Reach out to your local high school and inquire as to any construction programs now or planned for the future
- Speak about the trades and the opportunities within any community groups you belong to
- Let us know here at the state level how we can help

This is uncharted territory for us as we navigate the field of education, curriculum, and state requirements for students. However, as a team we are getting the job done. Won't you decide to be a part of the process? There is work for everyone and with many hands we will make an impact in Texas!

As I end, let me say, we have the **BEST PEOPLE** in the industry and our legacy will be to blaze the trail for those coming after us.

Please let me know how I can help you!

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