

News Release



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Meta, ABC Form Partnership to Launch Academy to Train and Create Jobs for Construction Craft Professionals

GRIMES, IOWA, June 25—Meta Platforms Inc. and Associated Builders and Contractors have announced a [partnership](#) to educate and provide construction-ready career pathways for thousands of data center construction technicians kicking off in Indiana, Louisiana, Ohio and Texas as a meaningful step toward meeting the growing demand for data centers workers nationwide.

America's Workforce Academy is a \$115 million investment in the next generation of construction professionals that includes a five-week training program and a job offer from contractors working on Meta projects at the conclusion of the program. Once an online application process is complete, scholarships, travel, housing and stipends for living expenses are granted to qualified job seekers. They will then participate in career readiness and safety training followed by five weeks of hands-on education, which includes core training and craft training.

"America's Workforce Academy is a transformational endeavor creating incredible construction-ready careers. ABC is proud to work with Meta, CBRE and academy community partners to welcome all who want to build their career dreams as a professional in construction," said Michael Bellaman, ABC president and CEO. "As an industry leader, ABC believes in creating opportunities for all on a level playing field and is ready to meet the industry's needs and help individuals achieve their career dreams. ABC is honored to partner with Meta to expand the pipeline of data center construction workers.

"This new program is an innovative talent solution that is a critical part of addressing the construction industry's [ongoing workforce shortage](#) and creates an accelerated, new-entrant strategy for job seekers," said ABC President and CEO Greg Spenner. "Utilizing ABC's existing, proven, nationwide educational ecosystem in states like Iowa, these programs will be launched at ABC chapter training centers in key markets like Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Columbus, Ohio; Indianapolis and Houston. This new, national partnership will help train the next generation of craft professionals from entry points such as high school graduates, veterans and more."

"The AI revolution is bringing change but also historic opportunities," said Meta President and Vice-Chairman Dina Powell McCormick. "Skilled workers electrified rural America one pole at a time. They manned the factories that built the arsenal that won World War II. Now a new generation will pour the foundations and lay the fiber that secures American strength in this new age."

The American Workforce Academy partnership will:

- **Build a Sustainable Talent Pipeline:** establishes scalable, repeatable workforce development models that align industry, training providers and workforce systems to meet ongoing demand.
- **Deliver Accelerated, Job-Ready Training:** provides standardized, industry-aligned training that equips participants with the skills, safety knowledge and jobsite readiness needed to contribute quickly and effectively.
- **Ensure Safety and Productivity From Day One:** prepares participants to meet industry and project-specific safety standards and contribute productively on the jobsite from the outset.

“The [sustained demand](#) for data center construction technicians means the industry needs an all-of-the-above approach to address this shortage and grow the construction talent pool,” said Bellaman. “This important new partnership reaffirms that the construction industry offers careers of choice in today’s complex job market. These new entrants may be beginning their careers on data center projects but by learning multiple competencies, are starting a life-long career in construction with near limitless possibilities.”

ABC member contractors are building the people who build America’s critical infrastructure by investing in flexible, competency-based and market-driven education methodologies to cultivate their long-term skill sets, creating a brighter future for their workers and their families. They deliver long-lasting projects and employ multicraft professionals who go home safe, healthy and fulfilled every day. ABC and its members are working to recruit, educate and upskill the nation’s future construction workforce with a [network](#) of more than 800 apprenticeship, craft, safety and management education programs—including 450 government-registered apprenticeship programs—across 20 different occupations.

“Thanks to the crucial, established team members of ABC’s vast network, which includes the [National Center for Construction Education and Research](#), ABC’s [67 chapters](#), [ABC strategic partners](#) and [ABC business partners](#), as well as [ABC’s Tech Alliance](#), we are ready to deliver this transformational construction career readiness program across the country,” said Bellaman.

If you want to help build America’s future, [apply to America’s Workforce Academy](#) today.

Associated Builders and Contractors is a national construction industry trade association established in 1950 with 67 chapters and 24,000 members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC helps members offer a robust employee value proposition, develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. Visit us at [abc.org](#).