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A Division of the WV State Building Trades, AFL-CIO | Chuck Parker, President | John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer | Justin Williams, Director

# West Virginia Selected for Hydrogen Hub Funding

On October 13th, Senator Joe Manchin announced the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) had selected the Appalachian Regional Clean Hydrogen Hub (ARCH2) group to receive \$925 million in federal funding to support the construction of a hydrogen hub in the Appalachian region throughout West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania.

According to a press release circulated by the U.S. Senate Energy & Natural Resources Committee, the federal funding will help build and support a new hydrogen energy industry, which will include numerous projects in the central Appalachian region, a majority of which will be in West Virginia.

The projects are expected to create more than 21,000 jobs, including 18,000 for construction workers.

The funding was made possible by the 2021 passage of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which included \$8 billion for the regional hydrogen hubs to jumpstart the production,

transport, and use of clean hydrogen across the United States.

The selection of ARCH2 comes

after a long process, which included two years of work by numerous partners in the energy sector.

“We won the hub because of the hard work of countless individuals

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Senator Joe Manchin addresses attendees at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Morgantown, West Virginia during a ceremony about ARCH2's selection to receive \$925 million in federal funds to support a new hydrogen hub in central Appalachia.

## New US DOL Davis-Bacon Rule Takes Effect

On October 23, the United States Department of Labor's (DOL) final rule on Davis-Bacon and Related Acts Regulations will take effect.

The rule, originally passed in August of this year, will allow the DOL's Wage and Hour Division to issue multi-county project wage determinations with a single wage rate per classification.

The Davis-Bacon Act, originally passed in 1931, sets prevailing wages

that contractors must pay workers on federal construction projects.

The regulations apply to federally supported contracts “in excess of \$2,000 for the construction, alteration, or repair (including painting and decorating) of public buildings or public works.”

As a result of the new rule, the DOL has redefined the term “prevailing wage” and returned to a three-step process for determining what

the prevailing wage will be for certain classifications in certain geographic areas.

The first step looks at the wages paid to “a majority of workers,” both union and nonunion, in an area.

If a majority of workers of the same classification are paid the same rate, that rate becomes the prevailing wage.

In the second step, if no majority rate exists, then the wage rate paid to

at least 30 percent of workers in the classification in the area will be the prevailing wage.

Finally, in step three, if no wage rate is paid to at least 30 percent of workers, then the weighted average rate in the classification is considered to be the prevailing wage.

Furthermore, the final rule will also allow the DOL's Wage and Hour Division to use state and local wage

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## Recruitment Initiative

# WV Building Trades Partner with HD Media for High School Player of the Week

For the first time ever, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades Council has worked with media partners to create a new program, honoring high school student athletes of distinction during the fall sports season.

The trades have partnered with the HD Media corporation, the owners of many local newspapers including the Charleston Gazette and the Huntington Register-Herald, to create the program titled “Player of the Week.”

Each week, a selection committee comprised of representatives from HD Media and RSN Sports Network determine which student athlete had the most outstanding performance in their sport and choose that individual as Player of the Week.

Using game footage from the RSN

Sports Network, a highlight reel is created for each player and posted each week as a video on the Charleston Gazette Facebook page, which features the WV Building and Construction Trades logo.

In addition to the video, the players are presented with a certificate and commemorative shirt on behalf of HD Media and the WV Building and Construction Trades as well as a gift certificate to Chick-fil-A restaurants.

The sponsorship was taken on as a part of an ongoing recruitment initiative by the trades to educate individuals about the availability and benefits of construction craft apprenticeship programs.

“This sponsorship provides us with another opportunity to get the word out to young adults about our

craft apprenticeship programs,” said John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades. “We are proud to sponsor this program and partner with HD Media and RSN Sports Network to honor these outstanding athletes.”

The partnership will continue throughout the 10-week fall high school sports season and a new player will be selected each week.

Log on to the Charleston Gazette-Mail Facebook page each week to see who has been selected as the high school Player of the Week. ■



(From left) Rick Lord, Digital Director for HD Media ;Doug Skaff, President of HD Media; Jeff Curry, Coach for Herbert Hoover HS Football; Dane Hatfield, starting QB for Herbert Hoover High School; Justin Williams, Director of the Affiliated Construction Trades; and John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the WV Building and Construction Trades present Dane Hatfield with a certificate for being selected as the week 5 Player of the Week.

## KY Trades Approve New Fiscal Structure



John Epperly, Secretary-Treasurer for the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades speaks to the leadership of the Kentucky Building and Construction Trades at their annual meeting.

During the business portion of the meeting, the Kentucky Building Trades voted to change their financial structure by approving a per capita rate for affiliated crafts.

“This new structure is similar to what we have in West Virginia,” said Epperly. “I believe this will lead to better funding and better outcomes for the programs put on by the Kentucky Building and Construction Trades.”

## Hydrogen Hub

**Continued from Page 1**

and organizations, and I could not be prouder to be making this announcement today,” said Senator Manchin. “As Chairman of the Senate Energy Committee, I wrote and fought for the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to include \$8 billion to establish hydrogen hubs to demonstrate the production and use of clean hydrogen – and now, West Virginia will be on the leading edge of building out the new hydrogen market while bringing good-paying jobs and new economic opportunity to the state.”

Leaders in the trades applauded

Manchin’s announcement and say they are ready to get to work building out the new industry.

“We want to thank Senator Manchin for all the work he’s done to being this hydrogen hub to West Virginia,” said Chuck Parker, President of the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades. “Our members are ready to get to work on the hydrogen hub and build this new future for energy production in West Virginia.”

For more information on the hydrogen hub and ARCH2, log on to ARCH2hub.com. ■

# 100 MW Project Trades Sign MOA, New Haven Solar Project in Mason County, West Virginia

Earlier this month, the West Virginia Building and Construction Trades and the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with New Haven Solar to construct a 100MW solar facility in Mason County, West Virginia.

The project will include the site preparation, infrastructure, buildings, structures, fixtures, equip-

**“We look forward to working with the folks at New Haven Solar to build top of the line solar infrastructure in Mason County,”**

**John Holbrook**

*Business Manager*

*Tri-State Building and  
Construction Trades Council*

(2020), which allows electric utili-

ties to purchase or construct solar generating facilities up to 400MW in 50MW increments. The bill further requires the utilities to have sold at least 85% of the power generated by each 50MW increment prior to construction or purchase of an additional 50MW increment.

Once constructed, ownership of the New Haven Solar project will ultimately be transferred to Appalachian Power Company, a subsidiary of American Electric Power.

The project comes as a result of West Virginia Senate Bill 583

ties to purchase or construct solar generating facilities up to 400MW in 50MW increments. The bill further requires the utilities to have sold at least 85% of the power generated by each 50MW increment prior to construction or purchase of an additional 50MW increment.

“We look forward to working with

the folks at New Haven Solar to build top of the line solar infrastructure in Mason County,” said John Holbrook, Business Manager for the Tri-State Building and Construction Trades Council. “We believe they will be more than satisfied with the skilled work our members are able to perform.” ■

## Davis-Bacon Rule

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determinations to set federal prevailing wage requirements in certain situations.

Additionally, it ensures that energy infrastructure projects are covered by Davis-Bacon regulations.

DOL has estimated that roughly

1.2 million construction workers in the U.S. are impacted by the law, covering roughly \$220 billion in construction projects annually.

Log on to [www.dol.gov](http://www.dol.gov) for more information on the U.S. DOL's final rule on Davis Bacon. ■

## IBEW 466 Holds Apprentice Tour



Dustin Vaughan, Training Director for IBEW 466, gives a tour of their training facility to lawmakers, CTE administrators, and members of local regional economic development organizations.

The tour is a part of an ongoing initiative to educate the public about the benefits of construction craft apprenticeship programs.

Pictured individuals include (from left): Kimberly Sallada, Career and Work Skills Training Coordinator for Kanawha County Schools; Andrea Herrick, WV Jumpstart Savings Program; Fred Chandler, Business Manager for the Charleston Building and Construction Trades; and Adam Vance, WV House of Delegates (R-35, Wyoming).

## Laborers Hold Contractor Day



Ross McPherson, Training Coordinator with the WV Laborers Training Center, gives a tour of their training sites and program in Mineral Wells, West Virginia to a group of contractors on their first annual Contractors Awareness Day.

The tour was held to showcase the high level technical skills training programs the laborers have to offer to contractors throughout the state.

For more information on the WV and Appalachian Laborers District Council, including information on how to join the apprenticeship program, log on to [www.WVldc.com](http://www.WVldc.com).

# Study: Union Labor is Cheaper and More Productive than Open-Shop Labor

A recent study conducted by Independent Project Analysis (IPA) found projects that use union labor have better results, more predictable schedules, and lower overall costs than non-union/open-shop labor projects.

The study looked at 1,550 projects in the United States covering a span of 22 years (2000-2022).

The projects examined union, non-union, and a mix of both workforces. The size of the projects ranged in cost from \$200,000 to 6 million, with the average size of the projects at approximately \$890,000. Some of these included oil refineries, paper mills, distribution centers, and warehouses.

According to the results of the

study, projects that employed union workers had a 4% lower overall cost. The study also concluded projects that employed union workers are 8% less likely to get behind schedule.

In addition, projects employing union workers required 10% fewer craft workers as compared to non-union projects.

The study findings suggest that union workers have a higher productivity which translates into fewer workers needed to complete a job and fewer overall hours.

Over the course of the past decade, one of the biggest challenges to the construction industry has been attracting and retaining qualified workers. The study found that union labor projects are 40% less likely to

experience a shortage of skilled labor.

Furthermore, projects that employ union workers have a monthly turnover rate that is nearly 33% lower than open-shop labor.

The study concluded that “union labor delivers lower and more pre-

dictable project costs and more predictable schedules,” confirming that union labor is significantly more productive than non-union/open shop.

For more information, and to read the full study, log on to [www.IPAGlobal.com](http://www.IPAGlobal.com). ■



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#### Affiliated Construction Trades

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## Jumpstart Savings Presentation



Andrea Herrick, Director of the Jumpstart Savings Program, gives a presentation to IBEW 466 apprentices about the tax benefits surrounding the program.

The Jumpstart Savings Program is administered by the West Virginia Treasurer's Office and is designed to help individuals who enter and complete trade or vocational school to save money to support their careers.

According to Herrick, the program is similar to a SMART529 plan, but whereas the 529 plan lets you save for the costs of tuition needed to go to school, the Jumpstart Savings Program covers the costs needed to get a job after you graduate.

For more information on the Jumpstart Savings Program, log on to [www.WVjumpstart.com](http://www.WVjumpstart.com).

**JUMPSTART SAVINGS PROGRAM**  
A program of the West Virginia State Treasurer's Office

**WHAT MAKES YOU PROUD TO BE A WEST VIRGINIA SKILLED WORKER?**

Answer this question and snap a picture for a chance to win up to \$12,000 deposited into a Jumpstart Savings Account!

**ELIGIBILITY**

An entrant must be a legal West Virginian resident who is 18 years or older as of Sept. 26, 2023 and is currently enrolled in or has fully completed one of the following programs:

- Community and technical school
- Advanced Career Education Center (ACE)
- License 35 school
- State or federally approved apprenticeship
- High school technical education
- A licensure or certification program approved by the Jumpstart Savings Program governing Board

**PRIZE**

Contest winners will be selected to receive \$2,000 in a Jumpstart Savings Account (up to 20 winners). Out of those winners, one grand prize winner will be randomly selected to receive an additional \$10,000!

**CONTEST DEADLINE: DECEMBER 31, 2023**

Scan here or visit [wvjumpstart.com](http://wvjumpstart.com) to enter!

Jumpstart Savings is a state-administered program designated in W.Va. State Code that allows tradespeople in a qualifying profession to save for job-related expenses while offering state tax advantages for West Virginia taxpayers and flexible savings.