

PRESS RELEASE

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**Construction Industry Career Day Celebrates 25 Years of Building New Jersey's
Future Workforce**

*Two-day event welcomed more than 2,000 students from over 70 schools for hands-on
demonstrations and career exploration opportunities*



Left: Students build mock scaffolding with Laborers International Union of North America (LIUNA). Right: Students lay brick with the Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers.

Edison, NJ — Thousands of students, job seekers, educators, and industry leaders gathered in Edison this week for [Construction Industry Career Day \(CICD\) 2026](#), a two-day event showcasing the educational and career opportunities available across New Jersey's union construction industry.

The event, hosted by the [Associated Construction Contractors of New Jersey \(ACCNJ\)](#) in

collaboration with industry associations, labor partners, and the CICD committee, marked the program's 25th year. The event comes at a time when the demand for skilled craftworkers continues to rise nationwide, with wages for skilled trade jobs in the United States [increasing 30%](#) since 2022.

“Construction Industry Career Day gives students and community members a firsthand look at the wide range of rewarding careers available in the union construction industry,” said **Shamara Gatling-Davila, ACCNJ Education Manager**. “Whether attendees are interested in apprenticeships, higher education, or combining both pathways, CICD connects them with opportunities that can lead to long-term success. We are proud to support the development of New Jersey’s future workforce.”

The first day of the event was open to job seekers exploring new career opportunities, while the second day welcomed high school students from across the state. More than 2,000 students from over 70 schools attended the event. Participants experienced hands-on demonstrations from New Jersey’s union construction trades and visited exhibit booths hosted by colleges, trade associations, and federal and state agencies.

Several of ACCNJ’s labor partners have expanded partnerships with educational institutions throughout the state, including the Bricklayers’ apprenticeship partnership with [NJIT](#), the Carpenters’ partnership with Rowan University, and multiple union partnerships with Thomas Edison State University.

Attendees also learned how emerging technologies, including drones and smart construction tools, are being integrated into union training programs to improve safety, efficiency, and innovation across the industry.

“For 25 years, CICD has helped students and community members discover that the union construction industry offers more than just a paycheck; it offers a career,” said **Jill Schiff, ACCNJ COO**. “For people who want to work with their hands, build something real, and take pride in what they accomplish every day, the trades provide incredible opportunities. ACCNJ is proud to help connect the next generation of craftworkers with career paths that offer stability, advancement, and excellent wages and benefits.”

To view more pictures from CICD 2026, click [here](#).

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ABOUT ACCNJ

ACCNJ represents general building contractors, construction managers, and heavy, highway, site development and utility contractors in New Jersey that employ tens of thousands of skilled union craftworkers each year. Members are responsible for billions of dollars in commercial,

industrial, heavy, highway, utility, and institutional construction projects annually. The Association is committed to raising the standards of construction in New Jersey through quality, integrity, skill, and responsibility. To learn more about ACCNJ or becoming a member, visit accnj.org.