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Press Release

Local Construction Preapprenticeship Program For High School Youth Honors Second Ever Female Completer, Among 26 Others

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Sarasota, FL May 20, 2008 Construction Technology Careers (CTC) hosted its fifth annual Completer's Ceremony Thursday, May 15, with its second female completer, Jessica Wright, joining 26 others to be honored for completing the construction preapprenticeship program, requiring more than 700 training hours. The Southeast High School senior is part of a growing trend within the industry – in the last decade the number of women in construction increased by 18 percent according to the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC).

The two-year preapprenticeship program prepares high school students for success in construction careers. Through hands-on experience, mentoring, job shadowing, OJT, supplemental safety training and employability skills students are able to develop valuable skills in planning, project management, workplace safety, teamwork, employability skills and much more. "CTC is very proud of the 27 young men and women who have successfully completed this rigorous two-year preapprenticeship which exposes youth to the different trades of HVAC, plumbing, electrical, masonry and/or carpentry as well as the three tiered construction career pathways into post secondary education and entrepreneurship," said Mark Kennell, CTC Chair and Senior Vice President at W.G. Mills Inc.

The annual Construction Technology Careers Preapprenticeship Completer's Ceremony was held on Thursday, May 15 from 3:30 – 5pm at the Keiser University auditorium located at on Lakewood Ranch. CTC is an award-winning best practice model preapprenticeship and a partnership between the Suncoast Workforce Board, two county school districts and Gulf Coast Builders Exchange.

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2008 Construction Technology Careers Preapprenticeship Program Completers

- Christopher Amin, Southeast HS
- Carl Bukantas Jr., SCTI/Venice HS
- Bryon Carpenter, MTI/Bayshore HS
- Ricky Charles Jr., SCTI/Riverview HS
- David Chubb, MTI/Lakewood Ranch HS
- Jeffrey Declercq, SCTI/North Port HS
- Danovan Downer, MTI/Southeast HS
- Christopher Fago, SCTI/Sarasota HS
- Christopher Gonzalez, SCTI/Booker HS
- Sean Jasper, Palmetto HS
- Nathan Johnson, Sarasota HS
- Galen Ksiazkiewicz, Southeast HS
- Derek LaPlante, Palmetto HS
- Josue Martinez, Palmetto HS
- Miguel Mendoza, MTI/Palmetto HS
- Robert Minor, SCTI/Booker HS
- Armando Munoz, SCTI/Riverview HS
- Michael Rowe, SCTI/Sarasota HS
- Vadim Semenyuk, SCTI/North Port HS
- Brandon Smalley, MTI/Manatee HS
- Justin Stansbury, MTI/Community HS
- Edward Sullivan, Palmetto HS
- Derek Whetsel, Sarasota HS
- Gerald Whipper, Palmetto HS
- Christopher Wolfe, MTI/Manatee HS
- Jessica Wright, Southeast HS (only second ever female to complete the CTC preapprenticeship)
- Kyle Young, Sarasota HS

About Construction Technology Careers

Construction Technology Careers is a unique and growing partnership among the local construction industry, the School Boards of Manatee and Sarasota Counties and the Suncoast Workforce Board. CTC has won two awards as an innovative best practice model partnership, and is committed to increase future resources and opportunities for CTC youth, while building the regional construction industry workforce. For additional information about the CTC Preapprenticeship program, call or email Kristey Richardson at 941-361-6090 ext. 113 or ctcinfo@swdb.org, or visit www.constructiontechnologycareers.org.