

THE ST. LOUIS AMERICAN

Last modified: *Thursday, April 10, 2008 8:52 AM CDT*

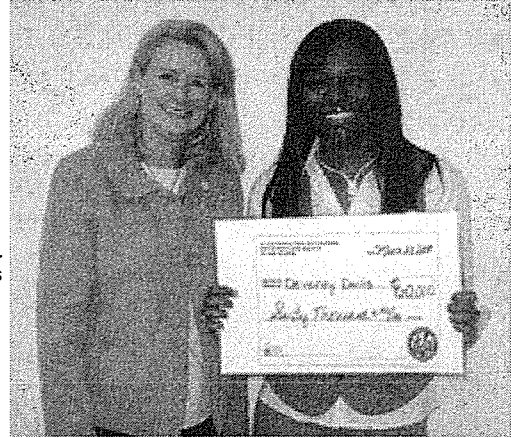
Recognizing efforts to diversify the construction field

Construction Careers Center awarded by FOCUS St. Louis

Special to the American

Because of the significant impact the Construction Careers Center has had on the diversification of the construction industry and work force development in St. Louis, it has been selected as a recipient for the 2008 FOCUS St. Louis "What's Right with the Region!" award.

Founded by the Associated General Contractors of St. Louis, the Construction Careers Center, a four-year charter high school, is more than just a charter high school. The CCC has successfully brought the construction industry and the community together through programs like ACE mentoring, a Career Coaching program sponsored by St. Louis area businesses, and Big Brothers-Big Sisters.



These and other programs support the 425 high school students enrolled in the school. They graduate with a four-year high school education that is focused on the skills needed to enter the building trades' apprenticeship programs or to further their education in college.

Since opening in 2001, the Construction Careers Center has graduated three classes of pioneering students who have embraced construction as a career path. Today, CCC students are working on the I-64/40 project for Gateway Constructors. They can be found on building job sites working for Clayco, Tarlton and water projects for MSD.

"The AGC is thrilled the Construction Careers Center has been recognized as an 'Innovative Solution' in the 2008 FOCUS St. Louis, What's Right with the Region! Award," said Len Toenjes, president, AGC of St. Louis.

"We started this charter high school in 2001 with the belief that the need to diversify the construction industry and develop a new skilled work force for the industry was critical to the long term success of St. Louis."

St. Louis is the only city with a charter high school devoted entirely to the training of young people to enter the construction industry, according to the AGC.

The Associated General Contractors of St. Louis developed the Construction Careers Center to bolster the quality and availability of skilled construction professionals for the St. Louis area by providing students an accredited high-school level curriculum and comprehensive construction training.

This is the 11th year for the Focus awards. The Construction Careers Center will receive the award at the 2008 FOCUS St. Louis, "What's Right with the Region!" award on May 7 at the Sheldon Concert Hall.

The Associated General Contractors of St. Louis represents over 450 area construction firms. Last year, AGC of St. Louis member firms built in excess of \$3 billion in projects throughout the St. Louis region.

-- CLOSE WINDOW --