

# CCC's Fifth Graduating Class Celebrates Commencement



Construction industry leaders, CCC Board of Education members and CCC graduates posed for a photo prior to commencement. Front: CCC Valedictorian Serenity Breeland; Senator Robin Wright-Jones, Commencement Speaker; Hattie Jackson (Dean of Academic Support/ Continuing Education at Saint Louis Community College at Forest Park), Member of the CCC Board of Education

Back: Leonard Toenjes, President AGC of St. Louis; Paul J. Shaughnessy (President, BSI Constructors, Inc.), Member of the CCC Board of Education; CCC Salutatorian Izaiah Johnson; Rich Ledbetter (President, Castle Contracting), Chairman of the CCC Board of Education; Terry Nelson (Executive Secretary-Treasurer, Carpenters' District Council of Greater St. Louis), Member of the CCC Board of Education; Don Pohl (Dean of Academic Affairs, Ranken Technical College), Member of the CCC Board of Education

Family, friends, educators and construction industry leaders packed the Harris-Stowe State University auditorium on June 25, 2009 to support the fifth graduating class of the Construction Careers Center (CCC) High School.

More than half of the graduates will continue their education at the college level, either two or four-year institutions pursuing construction related careers. Several of this year's graduates passed the employee testing requirements and will accept entry level positions with AmerenUE.

One of the graduates, Joshua Wright received an Academic Scholarship to attend Pittsburgh State in the fall. Wright will study mechanical engineering. This year's class boasts another set of twins at the CCC, Brandon and Byron Dyer. Byron has been accepted to SIUE in the fall to study in engineering. Brandon has taken and passed Ameren's pre-employment test, the

first stage of Ameren's selection process for employment.

"The Construction Careers Center exists to provide solutions to some pressing problems facing the industry," said Rich Ledbetter, CCC Board President. "The first is to offer these young people critical academic and life-skills they will need to succeed as adults, and the second is to help to fill a need for skilled construction industry workers."

"The AGC is so proud to see another group of outstanding young people graduate from this one-of-a-kind institution that has prepared them so well for a rewarding future in the construction industry," said Leonard Toenjes, AGC president. "Our goal, when we started the school was to develop an avenue to re-supply the workforce while diversifying it, and I am pleased to say these graduates truly are the faces of the Industry's future in St. Louis."