

Construction Careers Center, AGC win national recognition

St. Louis — The Construction Careers Center and the Associated General Contractors of St. Louis have been awarded the prestigious CURT Workforce Development Award from the Construction Users Roundtable.

CURT is a national association of leading corporations in the U.S. and Canada that promotes cost-effective construction methods.

CURT is comprised of representatives from nationally-recognized companies such as General Electric, Boeing, DaimlerChrysler, Pfizer and AmerenUE.

The CURT Workforce Development Awards recognizes that training, education and recruitment are essential to excellence in construction.

The five-year-old Construction Careers Center and the AGC of St. Louis were selected from a pool of applicants representing national trade associations, contractors, unions, local labor-management associations, owners, educational institutions and public school systems.

In presenting the award to the CCC and the AGC, the committee recognized the school for its "unique pathway to preparing high school students for the industry."

Representatives from the school and the AGC accepted the award at the fourth annual National Construction Conference on Nov. 14 in Tucson, Ariz.

The ceremony was attended by James Morgan, chairman of the AGC Board of Directors; Leonard Toenjes, president of the AGC; Rich Ledbetter, chairman of the CCC Board of Education; Gina Washington, assis-

tant administrator of the CCC; Terry Eivins, director of professional development at the AGC, and CCC student Gabrielle Fields.

The CCC is the first charter high school sponsored by the AGC and St. Louis Public Schools and approved by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The school's four-year, fully-accredited curriculum was designed by the construction industry to prepare students for entry into a construction apprenticeship training program, a community college, a four-year degree institution or direct employment.

The school, which welcomed its first class of freshman-year students in 2001 and graduated its second class of seniors in 2006, currently enrolls 365 students. The group includes future building tradesmen, architects and engineers.

"To receive this award just five years after accepting our first students is amazing," Toenjes said. "This recognition proves once again that the Construction Careers Center is a shining example of our industry's commitment to opening doors for young people who want to challenge themselves with a career in the construction field."

The AGC is the united voice of the area construction industry, representing more than 450 area construction firms. Last year alone, AGC member firms put in place almost \$2 billion in projects throughout the St. Louis region.

For more information on CURT, visit www.curt.org.