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## PA Builders Association Welcomes New Schools to Endorsed Trade Program

HARRISBURG, Pa. – The [Pennsylvania Builders Association](http://pabuilders.org) (PBA) announced last week that it will be endorsing 4 additional trade schools: Eastern Westmoreland Career & Technology Center, Greater Altoona Career & Technical Center, Fayette County Career & Technical Institute, and the Pennsylvania College of Technology. Within these schools, there are multiple programs endorsed, ranging anywhere from Building and Construction to Interior Design. PBA is the voice of the home building industry in Pennsylvania.

“The instructors and administration are grateful to secure this endorsement, in that it gives our building trade students a portable credential that can help open doors for them across the United States,” says Lanny F. Ross, Executive Director at the Greater Altoona Career & Technical Center.

Endorsement of a school’s trade programs involves a thorough review and evaluation by people working in the construction industry using criteria established by the National Association of Home Builders. The program is also recognized by the Department of Education and endorsed by PACTA – PA Association of Career and Technical Administrators. Endorsement ensures that those trades programs in the schools meet high standards of performance and will properly prepare students with foundational knowledge in the building trades.

“It is a true measure of quality to be able to achieve an educational endorsement from PBA. Receiving the endorsement provides a benchmark for meeting industry standards. The endorsement offers validation that our curriculum, mission and educational goals are in sync with industry expectations. The goal of the Penn College School of Construction and Design and PBA is to provide a safe, fiscally responsible and sustainability minded workforce. We are excited about the relationship

that is shared through this endorsement for our Construction Technology and Masonry programs,” says Marc Bridgens, Dean of the School of Construction and Design Technologies at PCT.

PBA works with schools around the state to certify their various home building courses, demonstrating they meet NAHB educational guidelines. Students who complete PBA-certified programs can take tests that demonstrate their skills in such core competencies as carpentry; plumbing; heating, ventilation and air conditioning and others. When these students receive certification, it provides reassurance to builders and potential employers that they are well-prepared for work with a residential construction company. A new website has been designed and is now available to the public for online applications, program information and news at [pbaendorsedtrade.org](http://pbaendorsedtrade.org).

According to PBA President Kevin Coutts, “PBA is committed to a viable, high-quality construction industry and the workforce to support it. Through our Secondary Endorsed Trade Program, we can create a stronger future workforce and provide students with recognized certification and other benefits, like building a network of ties in the community through connections with PBA members, locals and local student chapters.”

### **About PBA**

Chartered in 1952, the Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) is a nonprofit professional trade organization of nearly 5,400 member companies, representing over 200,000 employees, from across the Commonwealth. PBA members and their employees include builders, remodelers, material suppliers, subcontractors, consultants, lending institutions, utilities and others involved in the housing industry.

PBA serves its membership by providing proactive leadership on state regulatory and legislative issues and by offering products and services to its 38 local associations and chapters that enhance the effectiveness and professionalism of its members. PBA serves Pennsylvania communities and consumers through its steadfast efforts to protect homeownership rights and advocate for affordable housing options. PBA is affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders. [www.pabuilders.org](http://www.pabuilders.org)

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