



## 2018-2019: Our Founding Year

A Year in Review

### Abstract

Take a look back on all we've accomplished in our first year and join us as we look forward to our plans for the future!

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Founded & Managed by:  
Associated Builders & Contractors,  
Texas Mid Coast Chapter

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# Mid Coast Construction Academy

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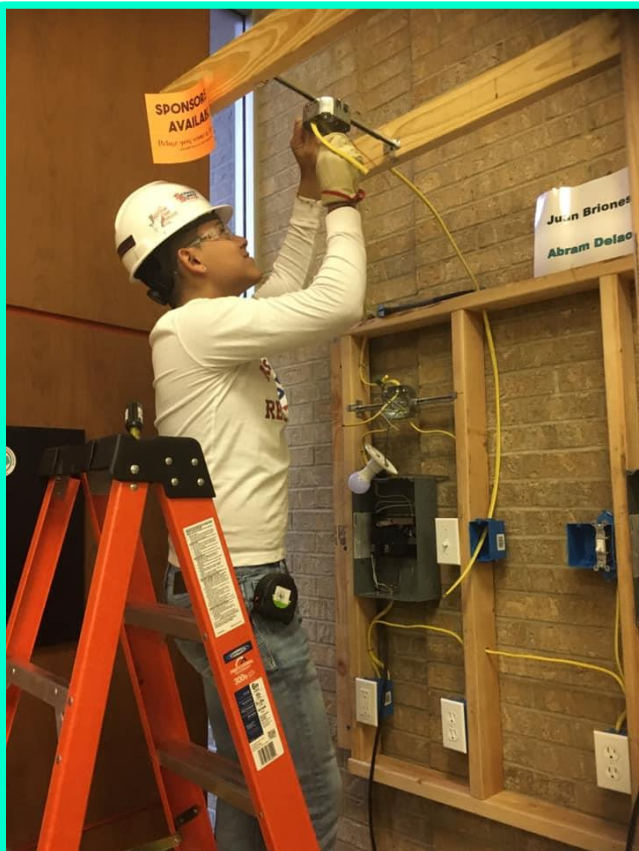
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Our first year of Mid Coast Construction Academy is winding down and we wanted to give you an update on all we've accomplished this year! Not only has ABC, Texas Mid Coast Chapter successfully launched a US DOL registered apprenticeship program, but we've started a high school pre-apprenticeship

program. This has come to be known as the MCA, which is a 501(c)(3) non-profit entity. The entire program takes approximately 4 years to complete, but high school students can get a jump start on the classroom portion before they even graduate. Upon completion of the courses and OJT hours, they will have up to 5 NCCER certifications, which are

recognized worldwide, and an Apprenticeship Completion Certificate from the U.S. Department of Labor!



On the first day of class MCA welcomed 21 area high school students and 10 adult students. Now that our first year is coming to an end, registration has started for our second year and it's starting strong.

We started the year off with a bang by getting all of our students trained on first aid and safety awareness, courtesy of A1-Shiner Fire & Safety, before they jumped into the hands-on NCCER (National Center for



Construction Education and Research) curriculum. The students worked with hand tools, power tools, and got to actually wire



and pipe their own individual projects. They even complete a portfolio documenting their work, including material take-offs, time spent, tools used, etc.

In October, we celebrated our Grand Opening with a ribbon cutting, open house, and catered meal in our educational and instructional facilities (the MCA is housed in the previous home of

Victoria Electric Cooperative at 102 S. Ben Jordan), in conjunction with a signing ceremony for our adult apprentices who were committing to their employers and their trades. The high school students looked on in admiration, excited for what is to come in the future. This night was emotional and exciting for all as we finally got to see our hard-laid plans finally come to fruition!



In addition to our students earning a 90% passing rate on their NCCER CORE and Level 1 certifications within their respective trades, we gave every attempt and took every opportunity to make our students as job-ready as possible and to provide them with the necessary career skills they will need to be successful.

We are thankful for the UH-V Small Business Coalition who trained our high school students on Workplace Communication, Customer Service, and Intrapreneurship. All of these were eye opening and interactive workshops that our students will be able to apply in their careers no matter where they end up.





Many of our students got real world practice on public speaking by coming with us to present and speak at several community organizations like Lions Clubs, Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis Clubs, Builders Association, etc. about how the MCA has helped them.



We also trained them on resume writing and interview skills before holding mock interviews, where the students watched and evaluated one another while being interviewed by local companies. Interviews for our graduating seniors assisted in job placement with local companies!



Additionally, the MCA made it our mission to get our students as many additional, relevant certifications as possible this year, so thanks to ESC Consulting, our students have their OSHA 10-hour certifications and our high school students have all been trained as Scaffold Users.

Each high school student is also finishing the school year with 36 hours on their apprenticeship licenses from their lab work in class, which can be applied to the on-the-job hours necessary to earn their journeyman license with the state of Texas. Many of our adult students (who work full time in their trade as a requirement of the program) have acquired over 1,500 hours to their licenses so far!



Because the MCA was founded by the ABC, Texas Mid Coast Chapter in order to help bridge the employment gap and lessen the shortage of skilled labor in our area, local construction trade employers play a big part in what we teach and how we run our program. This helps to ensure that it is based on real world application. Many times, throughout the year, we have hosted individuals from companies like Wendt Services, Command Electric, Hall Electric, Edwards Plumbing and many more to come talk to our students about their career journey and to inspect their work. This constant feedback helps us to ensure that we are providing apprentices with skills that the employers actually want and need. Additionally, our MCA Board of Trustees is extremely involved with our program, from working with struggling students to breakfasts discussing the many opportunities available along this path.



On the note of real-world application, our students were also fortunate enough this year to attend field trips related to the construction industry. Our plumbing class had many shop visits to places like Edwards Plumbing and Victoria Air Conditioning and even a visit to the job site at DeTar Hospital to learn about medical gas pipe installation!





All of our high school students enjoyed a full day trip to Steve Klein's Terravista subdivision where they got to see every single step of the construction process: from bidding and estimating, concrete pouring, framing, all the way to completion, with every step in between.

Along the way, they were able to ask questions and learn about the process

from subcontracting companies such as South Texas Ventilation, Hall Electric, VCS Companies, and Advanced Plumbing, who set time out of their busy schedules to come teach our students.



And lastly, our students enjoyed field trips to Ferguson and Hall Electric to learn about the bidding, estimating, warehousing, and supplier side of the industry.





Constant interaction with these companies has provided opportunities for many of our high school students to line up employment opportunities before they ever graduate high school! We can't wait to see these students at their signing day next fall.

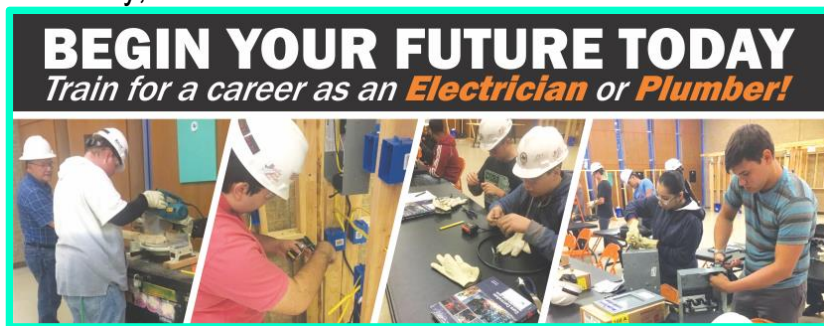
In addition to interaction with many local employers in the trades, our students have also been visited by politicians to hear about the industry from that standpoint. We loved hosting Mayor Rawley McCoy and Congressman Michael Cloud this year at the MCA, who both provided valuable insight to the trades and discussed funding laws for vocational learning on local and national levels.



While the learning was going on, the MCA Administration was busy recruiting: new school districts, new employers, new instructors! We gave presentations in many ISDs in our 8-county region, hosted school districts and regional employers to see our students working on their projects in the lab, sponsored a Region III luncheon for superintendents, presented at many career fairs and job shows, and also had a booth in the Crossroads Builders Association's Home Product Show. Additionally, we worked on a new promotional video and television ad to share with the community regarding all the ways the MCA can help our students, our economy, and our future.



I'd say we were successful in our endeavors after bringing on St. Joseph High School for the 2019-2020 school year (in addition to Cuero, Victoria, and Ganado which we already work with), more home-schooled students, some new employers, and over 40 new incoming students for the upcoming school year! In fact, we had to cap our high school electrical class, which was full to the brim! We are even working with Workforce Solutions and Texas Workforce Commission to provide education opportunities to individuals in need.







We will also retain 73% of our current students who will continue into level 2 of their craft and continue earning hours toward their license. In fact, we've been to several awards ceremonies in participating districts to recognize our students for all the trainings, certifications, and licenses they've earned and some even signed their intent to continue their education after high school graduation with the MCA's U.S. Department of Labor Registered Apprenticeship Program.

Of the 27% not returning for the 2019-2020 school year, 25% of those will be moving on to electrical engineering school after getting their foundation with MCA, and 25% have found an interest in another aspect of the construction industry.

In addition to trades, we also promote volunteering at the MCA, which has been demonstrated by so many of the individuals and companies listed previously, but we also try to encourage our students to give back as well. Several of our high school apprentices volunteered at the ABC Golf Tournament where they





worked a competition to raise money for MCA. Students were also encouraged to volunteer with the Long Term Recovery Group and Promise Pointe, and many will volunteer this summer at the Roth Construction Scholarship Fundraiser by serving shrimp boil plates to help provide financial aid to future students. Community service will also be encouraged at the Victoria Business and Education Coalition's (VBEC) Summer Leadership Camp where we will provide activities to teach 6<sup>th</sup> grade students about the industry.



In May, the ABC, Texas Mid Coast Chapter was recognized as the Victoria Chamber of Commerce Business Partner of the Month for the founding, efforts, and progress of the Mid Coast Construction Academy in workforce development and in helping to boost the economy. Additionally, the MCA was nominated for two Texas Workforce Commission Awards for the difference we are making in our community and for our youth.

We have plans to expand into other trades, such as Heating, Ventilation & Air Conditioning (HVAC) and/or Carpentry in the upcoming years.

Without the help and support of our many sponsors and donors, many of these endeavors and accomplishments would have been far out of our reach. We are deeply grateful for the help and support of our program, and for those who believed in us before we ever got started. It is our mission to grow, expand, and improve each year and to continue providing opportunities to our students, which otherwise would not be

possible, to enrich their futures and help them become contributing members of our community. We hope to continue making you proud.

Sincerely,

Mid Coast Construction Academy Board &  
ABC Texas Mid Coast Chapter Staff

**MCA Board of Trustees**

<b>Mike Weaver</b> Chairman	<b>Aarin Wendt</b> Vice Chairman	<b>Jim Johnson</b> Treasurer	<b>Roland Rodriguez</b> Secretary
<b>Jeff Bauknight</b> Trustee	<b>Grayson Graves</b> Trustee	<b>Les Richter</b> Trustee	



**ABC Staff**

<b>Kristi Stevenson</b> President/CEO	<b>Marissa Hudson</b> Education Director	<b>Heather Zamykal</b> Bookkeeper	<b>Stacy Chavez</b> Administrative Assistant
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# 2018-2019 Sponsors & Donors

(including in-kind donations)

## Founders Club Sponsors \$10,000+

- Eaton Corporation
- Victoria Electric Cooperative
- VCS Companies
- Weaver & Jacobs Constructors, Inc.
- Wendt Services

## Workforce Sponsors \$5,000

- Command Electric
- Hall Electric
- Lauger Companies, Inc.
- MMR

## Event Sponsors \$2,000

- CED/Columbia Electric Supply, Inc.
- CNP Logistics, LLC
- Ideal Industries
- ISC Constructors, LLC
- Roth Construction
- Kelly Painting & Drywall
- Mike & Kim Weaver
- Milwaukee
- RCR Custom Homes
- Zarsky Lumber

## Booth Sponsors \$1,000

- Cajun Industries, LLC
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- Mike & Kim Weaver
- Momentum Group
- Jung Tile
- Rexel
- Texas Commercial Fire & Safety

## Tool Sponsors \$750

- Columbia Electric Supply
- Dry Goods
- Ferguson
- Service Supply of Victoria, Inc.

## Safety Sponsors \$500

- A-1 Shiner & Safety
- ESC Consultants
- Kelly Painting & Drywall
- Michelle's Flooring & Design
- Mitchell Glass
- Pipeline Supply & Service
- Regional Steel
- Texas Commercial Fire & Safety

## Textbook Sponsors \$150

- Coastal Office Solutions
- DB Webworks
- Dwain & Michelle Darilek
- Kathy Hunt
- McCoy's
- Brad & Evelyn Oubre
- Sherwin Williams

## Other Sponsors

- Jewel Buchanan
- Jerry & Marie Dittmar
- Corbin Lauger
- Lowe's
- McCoy's
- Mike Milson
- Bert & Sandra Pyle
- Six Flags Glass

## Sponsor Employers for Apprentices

- Command Electric
- Edward's Plumbing, Inc.
- Hall Electric
- Seals Electric
- Wendt Services
- Victoria Air Conditioning

## 2018-2019 Grant Donors

- Cuero Development Corporation (\$6281.20)
- Kiwanis Club of Victoria (\$1800.00)
- TWC Texas Industry Partnership Grant (\$43,835.00)
- York, Albert, Myrtle Gunn Trust (\$25,000.00)
- Wood Family Memorial Trust (\$5,000)





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## Annual MCA Sponsorship Levels

### Executive Circle

**\$10,000**

- Company logo featured at front entry (permanent)
- MCA Executive Circle Plaque to hang in your office
- Company logo on apprentice work booth
- Company name on shirt worn by instructors, students, and staff
- Company logo on staff email signature line

### Event Sponsor

**\$2,000**

- Company logo on signage for our Fall Fundraiser/Apprentice Signing Day
- Company name listed on tickets
- Company logo featured on every table

### Tool Sponsor

**\$750**

- Purchase hand tools for an apprentice
- Company logo on a tool bucket

### Workforce Sponsor

**\$5,000**

- Company name listed on a sign hung at the MCA
- MCA Workforce Sponsor Plaque to hang in your office
- Company logo on apprentice work booth
- Company logo on staff email signature line

### Work Station Sponsor

**\$1,000**

- Company logo hung prominently above apprentice work station

### Safety Sponsor

**\$500**

- Company logo sticker on all apprentice hard hats

### Textbook Sponsor

**\$150**

- Company name on all apprentice text books

If you would like to be a sponsor for the 2019-2020 school year, please contact us with the information above, or send your donation to our OFFICE address.

Please note, the academy address is closed during the summer.

## Testimonials



*"As an educator of 11 years, 5 of those being a part of CTE courses, I'm so happy that this was created as an option for students. I am a firm believer that college is not for everyone BUT do believe in higher education. Young people need to learn a trade, go to a technical school, become an apprentice or go the college route. Thank you again for giving students this valuable opportunity. Look forward to seeing the students' accomplishments in your program."*

**--Sheena Vahalik, Counselor (pictured left)**

*"The MCA is important to our community because we need and have a void in our community for skilled tradesmen. The MCA is going to bring that, so that our tradesmen can be knowledgeable and have theory behind their thought processes, and ultimately spend their money back home, so we don't have to hire out of town contractors anymore. The workers that live here and are trained here will spend their money here."*

**--Aarin Wendt, Electrical Contractor (pictured right)**



*"This program will provide a significant benefit to students, the community and industry, but will also require support to get the program started. I strongly encourage you and your organization to help in establishing this essential program that will have a lasting impact in our area."*

**--Congresswoman Genie Morrison, US House of Representatives**



*"I'm so excited about this program! So impressed!"*

**--Jennifer Netardus, Parent & Teacher (pictured left)**

*"The program is multifaceted—we introduce them to a trade that can make them a living. Our contractors are looking for entry level electricians and plumbers. We want them to get their NCCER textbook certification. We also want to teach them entry level skills that the employers can put to use right away, so we're teaching both the mechanical end of it and the theoretical end of it so that they'll have the skills to advance once they get hired at the initial rate."*

**--Jim Matson, Master Electrician, NCCER Instructor**

*"I enrolled in the program just because I thought it would be a great job opportunity and to help me get a kick start on my life because in high school I didn't really know what I wanted to do. I just knew I didn't want to be behind a desk all my life doing paperwork. I like to use my hands and work outside. I recommend this program to a lot of people that don't know what they want to do after high school. Just give it a shot because at the end of it you'll have something you can carry with you for the rest of your life. You'll always have a trade that's always going to be needed in this world."*

**--Florentino (Floyd) Amador, IV, Student (pictured right)**



*"The MCA provides a great opportunity to build an educated skilled work force to fuel future growth and economic development in the Golden Crescent Region."*

**--Jim Johnson, Banker (pictured left)**



*"With our company, my employee students work during the day and come to school two nights a week. We employ them as apprentice electricians, register them with the state, and they work a full day—40 hours a week—using proper use of tools, proper conduit bending, circuitry, all phases of apprentice electrical work."*

**--Albert Quillantan, Electrical Contractor**

*"Cuero got involved with Mid Coast Construction Academy whenever I met Kristi Stevenson from Associated Builders and Contractors – Texas Mid Coast Chapter. For us, getting involved with them created another opportunity we could give our kids. Not every kid is going to go to college and when they get out of here, we want to figure out what skill we can give them or how we can help them to give them a livable wage, and this is one of the ways we looked at. But the old thought that everyone needs to go to college is not necessarily the best route for a kid. But for other kids as well, for some kids who need this, it's instant money. These kids are coming out after two years in high school and immediately start making a livable wage that you could raise a family on as an apprentice and then in two to four years after that, they're making several thousand dollars a year with zero college or trade school debt, and they can start their life. I promise you when I was twenty years old, or even thirty, I don't think I was making that income."*

**--Dr. Micah Dyer, Superintendent (pictured right)**



*"I think now we're beginning to realize that it's really important to support students in their endeavors, whatever that is, and help you find a job in the field that you would want. The goal is to become a productive member of your society, for you to be able to support your family, and be able to contribute. You can do that in a lot of varying ways and I think we're finally seeing the conversations turn a little to where people are starting to understand the value of everybody, not just college going students, so we're trying to shift the policy to match that new understanding."*

**Congressman Michael Cloud, US House of Representatives (pictured left)**

