

Arizona Construction Career Days coming in November

Alan M. Petrillo
HVACR Today

Introducing students to the world of construction is the aim of Arizona Construction Career Days, to be held Nov. 7 and 8 at the Army National Guard, Papago Site, 5636 E. McDowell Road in Phoenix.

Sponsored annually by the non-profit Association for Construction Career Development (ACCD), the Arizona Construction Career Days are designed to encourage young people to consider construction as a career, according to Rose Ann Canizales, ACCD's president.

Last year's event drew 1,100 junior and senior high school students from 65 schools around Arizona, and Canizales expects this year's Construction Career Days to surpass those numbers.

"We need to encourage a new generation to come into the construction industry," Canizales said. "By attending the Construction Career Days, the students can get a feel for the various trades and can consider all the facets that an education in a construction field would offer. That might be an apprenticeship program, or a two-year or four-year college curriculum."

This year community college and four-



Attendees walk the contractor exhibits during the 2012 the Arizona Construction Career Days. This year's event runs Nov. 7 and 8.

year college students are being invited to attend the event, along with high school students from around the state.

Arizona Construction Career Days will begin with a VIP reception from 8 to 10 am on Nov. 7 where keynotes will be given by

Brig. Gen. Michael T. McGuire, Adjunct General, Arizona, Army National Guard.

A new event this year will be a luncheon for school counselors from around the state on Nov. 7, from 11 a.m. to noon. Dan Brown, deputy superintendent of the Arizona Department of Education will speak to the group, as will Sapna Gupta, senior policy analyst for the Morrison Institute for Public Policy at Arizona State University.

Students attending Arizona Construction Career Days will have the opportunity to spend two days at work in the construction industry with real life applications. Some of the hands-on demonstrations that will be conducted include building brick walls, CADD, a pipe design and build contest, cement mixing and setting, constructing a toolbox, estimating projects, designing and building projects, plumbing projects, pipe fitting and operating heavy equipment under the instruction of a professional operating engineer.

More than three dozen companies and organizations also are slated to participate in the Arizona Construction Career Days as exhibitors, including utilities, contracting companies, subcontractors, union locals, colleges and educational institutions.

John Huppenthal, Arizona State Superintendent of Public Instruction; Vivienne Latibeaudiere, PhD, manager of the Arizona Department of Transportation's Business Engagement and Compliance Office; Arizona State Senate President Andy Biggs; and