

California Coalition for Construction in the Classroom

Capitol Lawn Event

August 22, 2007

PHCC and GreenPlumbers joined California Coalition for Construction in the Classroom's event on the Capitol Lawn on August 22nd. Former PHCC President Keith Riley, now a plumbing and construction technology instructor, brought up students from his Anaheim area class to participate in the event.

The California Coalition for Construction in the Classroom (CCCC) was formed in 1998 to promote the construction industry as a career option to parents, students, teachers, and school administrators. CCCC represents the entire construction industry, including specialty contractors, general contractors, architects, engineers, and inspectors. CCCC is comprised of approximately 80 of the largest Construction and Building Trade Associations; representing roughly 15,000 businesses throughout California. The Coalition has earned a reputation throughout California for leadership in the effort to help educate students, teachers, parents, legislators, and the public about the critical shortage of a work force that was inadvertently caused by the systematic dismantling of vocational and career technical education (CTE) over the past 20 years.

Due to the retirement of our highly skilled national workforce and the increase of construction activity, we must recruit 240,000 new workers each year for the next ten years. In a high-growth state like California, the need is even more pressing. This shortage means that companies must spend more to train workers and that contractors are less competitive because they are unprepared to build new projects. Both of these factors contribute to increased costs.

CCCC's goal is to attract highly qualified workers to the industry. To do this, they promote a multi-faceted program, which focuses on career awareness and exploration of the trades.



California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger joins PHCC's Steve Lehtonen at the GreenPlumber display on the Capitol Lawn on August 22nd.



California Energy expert, and new GreenPlumbers instructor, Gary Klein demonstrates the Metland system at the Capitol Event.



Senator Abel Maldonado, a sponsor of the CCC event, poses with PHCC's Steve Lehtonen at the GreenPlumber display on the Capitol Lawn.



Lehtonen shows Governor Schwarzenegger through the GreenPlumber display at the Coalition for Construction in the Classroom event on the Capitol Lawn.



Victoria Bradshaw, Secretary of Labor and Workforce Agency, poses with students and CCC's Adrienne Monroe at the Capitol Lawn event. Bradshaw expressed a need for 25,000 new plumbers by the year 2014.