



Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Superintendent of Schools

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PRESS ADVISORY
September 20, 2017

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PRESS ADVISORY

WHEN: September 29, 2017

WHERE: Locations and times below indicate arrival and departure of students at noted locations. Press are welcome to visit all/any locations on the tour.

800 Chadbourn Road, Fairfield	Carpenters Assn.	Arrive 8:30 Leave 9:30
<u>4350 Central Pl, Fairfield</u>	Sheet Metal Workers	Arrive 10:00 Leave 10:45
<u>3150 Bayshore Road, Benicia</u>	Iron Workers	Arrive 11:15 Leave 12:00
	Arrive back at Carpenters Assn.	12:30

WHO: Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, Solano County Office of Education, North Bay Apprenticeship Coordinators Association, Napa-Solano Building Trades, Robby Poblete Foundation and more than 100 students from area high schools.

WHAT: More than 100 local students will tour five union construction apprenticeship centers this month thanks to a local partnership. The field trip will expose high school students from area school districts to the opportunities a union construction career can offer at the various training centers in our region.

The Napa-Solano Central Labor Council, Solano County Office of Education (SCOE), North Bay Apprenticeship Coordinators Association, and Napa-Solano Building Trades will team up to bus 150 students around two counties as they get a first-hand look at alternatives to college. The tour has taken place for the last several years.

“This partnership is all about the kids and is a fantastic way to give our students the opportunity to learn by doing. They’re able to put their hands on specialized tools and equipment as well as have individual conversations with the dedicated labor leaders who offer the training,” commented Lisette Estrella-Henderson, Solano County Superintendent of Schools.



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Solano and Napa counties offer six training centers within a half-hour of one another. These state-approved apprenticeship training centers provide free training using an “earn while you learn” model as an apprentice starts a career in construction. These centers include: Sheet Metal Workers Local 104, Carpenters Regional Training Center, Ironworkers Local 378, Heat and Frost Insulators Local 16, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers 180, and Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 342.

“In the past, we’ve shown elected officials and other interested groups what we do, but this year we’ve decided to go straight to the students,” said Danny Bernardini, Business Manager for the Napa-Solano Building Trades. “There were obvious challenges with this, but SCOE stepped up and side by side we worked to make sure students and their teachers could make the trip.”

SCOE paid for five buses to transport the students and for the substitute teachers needed so classroom teachers could join their students on this trip. The Robby Poblete Foundation is using a grant to provide lunch for all participants. Bernardini said the commitment to showcase the apprenticeship opportunities follows a recent trend of school districts trying to restore career technical education back into the classrooms.

“The overwhelming response from teachers and administrators to promote the trades is fantastic,” Bernardini stated. “As school districts broaden the message from ‘every kid goes to college’ to ‘success in college and career,’ it opens the door to well-paying union careers.”

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