

## **MISSION TOMORROW: MEMBERS MAKE THE DIFFERENCE**

150,000 square feet of space – 12,500 students – 150 exhibitors – 14 AGCVA members

That is what you would find pulling up to the Richmond Raceway Complex on October 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>. This year marked the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual career exploration event, serving middle schoolers from Richmond and its 8 surrounding localities.

Mission Tomorrow, put on by the ChamberRVA, gives students, parents, and instructors an opportunity to weave through 5 floors of industry experts ready to demonstrate what makes their career so fascinating.

And AGCVA members really turned out with the tallest and most interactive exhibits of the day. To name a few: students climbed up and down a two story scaffold built by Scaffolding Solutions, they customized their own hardhats with ACI, they dressed the part and explored virtual job sites with Colonial Webb. And that just scratches the surface of exhibits brought to life by AGCVA member companies.

Even AGCVA staff was there showcasing Build Your Future Virginia (<https://virginia.byf.org/>), which informs students of earning potentials, career pathways, local training options. We were joined by our National Sponsor who brought a Tower Crane Operator Simulator and tested student's knowledge in a game of "Name that Craft Pro!"

This event would not have been successful if it were not for AGCVA members committing their time and energy to advocate for our industry. Not only did the hands-on activities stir excitement and curiosity in these 8<sup>th</sup> graders, but AGCVA members made an impact on our city leaders as well.

Monica Callahan, the Director of Workforce Programs for ChamberRVA said, "Your association members answered the call in a big way and helped to make Mission Tomorrow a huge success this year. To have doubled the number of [construction] exhibitors was amazing in and of itself, but to have the exhibitors to lean in the way they did and create interactive, engaging exhibits that the students were drawn to was the icing on the cake!"

AGCVA members took full advantage of an opportunity to showcase construction as a viable career option. The investment they made in Mission Tomorrow was not just an investment in the students – it was an investment in the future workforce of the construction industry.

### **A special thanks to our participating members – this truly would not have been possible without you!**

*Atlantic Constructors*

*Johnson Controls*

*Carter Machinery Company*

*W.M. Jordan*

*Old Dominion Insulation*

*Draper Aden Associates*

*Baker Roofing*

*Scaffolding Solutions*

*TradeCrews*

*ColonialWebb*

*Shoosmith*

*DPR*

*EMC*

*Fire & Life Safety America*

If you are interested in getting involved we have plenty of opportunity for you! We can get you connected to a school Advisory Board, perhaps your company wants to "adopt a school" or donate materials to local Career and Technical classes, or perhaps you want to engage in a AGCVA Workforce Solutions Taskforce meeting. There are numerous ways to get connected to your future workforce; contact Courtney Baker at [courtney@agcva.org](mailto:courtney@agcva.org) | 540.323.0311 for more information.