



BUILD YOUR FUTURE VIRGINIA PRESENTS

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS THAT WORK

By Courtney Baker
AGCVA Winter Convention 2019
The Greenbrier - White Sulphur Springs, WV



MEGAN HEALY, CHIEF WORKFORCE ADVISOR TO GOVERNOR NORTHAM

headlined our Saturday morning seminar on Workforce Solutions that Work at the 2019 AGCVA Winter Convention.

The AGCVA kicked off the session with an overview of their recently launched workforce solutions initiative - Build Your Future Virginia. Members were able to see the exhibit booth and take a virtual tour of the website. This campaign was created as a resource hub to showcase career pathways in construction and to connect people to reputable construction companies.

Healy followed with an interactive presentation, sharing how the state gathers and analyzes data on workforce shortages. She shared several pipelines that can be explored for new potential employees. She then gave an overview of the Governors project, Build Virginia, which aims to connect workers throughout the Commonwealth with training and employment opportunities in the skilled trades.

The last activity of the seminar was opening the floor for our members to ask Healy the tough questions, such as,

- "Why are teachers incentivized based on how many students apply to college?"

- "How can contractors have a bigger voice in the decisions being made at

the state level regarding pathways into the trades?", and

- "How much of the budget that is set aside for Career and Technical Education is going directly to construction trades programs?".

State Senator and AGCVA member, John Cosgrove, added to the discussion by sharing how we can make a large impact by working closely with the Education Committees in the Legislature to better support Career and Technical Education. He encouraged every member to know their local representatives and not to hesitate to contact them.

The session provided a valuable overview on where we are now, and how to continue to make an impact on our industry's workforce moving forward.

Perhaps the largest take away was hearing that our local and state government recognize members of the AGCVA as subject matter experts in workforce development for the construction trades. Virginia leaders believe we are key in the continued efforts of improving the workforce shortage in Virginia.

We must continue in our diligence to stand up and speak out as we build our workforce and find "Solutions that Work".

"It is great to see the **Build Your Future Virginia** campaign. It seems like the AGCVA members are ahead of the game in addressing the construction industries workforce shortage."

- Megan Healy



For more information on this Workforce Solution Seminar or to get in touch with your local government representatives, contact Courtney Baker at courtney@agcva -or- 540.323.0311

