

BUILDING BLOCKS OF THE FUTURE

NWIBRT'S QUARTERLY E-NEWSLETTER

PARTNERSHIP NEWS

Welcome to Our New Premier Partners!

We're excited to announce that two new Premier Partners have joined NWIBRT, each bringing unique perspectives to our association. Fluor–Suncoke and Michuda Construction have recently partnered with us, and we're proud to welcome them both!

Fluor–Suncoke provides professional and technical solutions to deliver engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) projects. **Michuda Construction** is a family construction business that has operated for over 100 years. Today, they serve clients in the healthcare sector, as well as retail, senior living, and others.

Leveling Up Our Tradespeople

Eight out of ten construction companies say the industry needs more skilled leaders. Now, thanks to the efforts of several NWI partnering organizations, there's a straightforward way for union tradespeople to take their careers to the next level. Most tradespeople may not realize it, but they're actually about halfway there already. When an individual earns an associate degree in applied science from Ivy Tech as part of their apprenticeship, they will have about 40% of the total credits needed to transition into a new bachelor's program at Purdue Northwest (PNW) and earn a degree in Organizational Leadership and Supervision. Most students will be able to complete their bachelor's program in about 2.5 to 3 years. This is called the "Project Leadership" pathway and it's available to any union professional in Indiana that has earned their associate degree from Ivy Tech. (That includes nine different trades.)

Tonn and Blank Construction, the CAF, PNW, and Ivy Tech brought this program to life to upskill the industry and create the next generation of construction leaders. The whole program is designed to be a convenient and smooth transition. Courses enable students to work in construction during the day and learn in the afternoons/evenings.

Jake Wheeler, director of safety with Tonn and Blank, is one of the students involved in the first cohort of this program. He described it as a no-brainer for anyone looking to level-up their career, or for companies that need more leaders. "You'll be in a cohort of tradesmen, a union group of professionals. You're not part of the normal college population. You can do in-person, hybrid, or virtual classes. And it works around your schedule. Everyone can do this," Wheeler said. "In fact, many of the students in this program already have a great deal of prior knowledge about the courses they'll be taking – like construction bidding, for example. Many already have experience in these areas, and now they'll be able to receive a degree that opens new doors for their careers."

For employers, the benefits of "Project Leadership" are already beginning to manifest. John Gilmore, president and CEO of Tonn and Blank Construction, was one of the people who spearheaded this initiative. His company has over a dozen people enrolled and has been witnessing their growth.

"I've seen a change in many of our professionals. This reinstitutes our people, especially those who have been in the field for a long time. It gets people to modernize and understand where our industry is headed," Gilmore said. "We feel this helps our company get better by enabling our Union employees the opportunity to reach their true potential. It is my hope this program continues for generations to come."

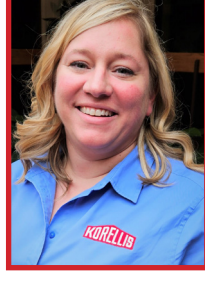
Wheeler added, "What's kind of neat are the improvements we're seeing in the "soft skills." Coming from the trades perspective, part of this degree involves the project management side of the industry. This is getting people more on the same page. There's a stronger bond developing among our teams."

NWIBRT and the founders of "Project Leadership" are encouraging all regional construction companies to share the details of this new bachelor's degree program with their apprentices and union tradespeople. This is unquestionably one of the smartest ways to upskill the construction workforce. Check out PNW's website at this link for more details.

BUSINESS BUZZ

Women are Making Moves at Korellis

Hammond-based Korellis has announced two new staff appointments. Meredith Moran-Pruim has been named as the company's new Assistant Service Manager and Liz Holmes has been welcomed as a new safety coordinator.



Meredith Moran-Pruim has been employed at Korellis since 2018. In addition to her new role, she is also heavily involved with community impact initiatives through her role as Chair for the ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) Communications Committee.



Safety Coordinator Liz Holmes previously worked in industrial safety and looks forward to bringing that experience and knowledge to Korellis. The company is working towards its VPP (Voluntary Protection Program) accreditation through OSHA.

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Franciscan WORKING Well

NiSource Selling Minority Equity Interest in NIPSCO, \$2.150B

NiSource Inc. announced that it has entered into a definitive agreement with an affiliate of Blackstone Infrastructure Partners, Blackstone's dedicated Infrastructure group, for the Blackstone Infrastructure affiliate to acquire a 19.9% equity interest in NIPSCO for \$2.150 billion.

Blackstone Infrastructure is committed to investing behind NIPSCO's energy transition and decarbonization programs, as well as helping to increase gas and electric grid resiliency for the customers of Indiana. The transaction is expected to close by the end 2023.

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COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE SYSTEM
Occupational Health

National Port Rankings Place Indiana #1

For the first time ever, Indiana ports rank first among inland ports and second among Great Lakes ports for cargo shipments. Recent changes to federal port rankings caused Indiana to move from having multiple small port districts and many shipments not counted to having two top-ranked ports on the inland rivers and Great Lakes.

The Northern Indiana Port District handled 30.3 million tons, which was 2.2 million tons behind the first-ranked the Port of Duluth-Superior, which includes terminals in Minnesota and Wisconsin. The Southern Indiana Port District handled 24.2 million tons in 2021, which ranked first among all inland ports and ahead of second-ranked Port of Pittsburgh's 16.4 million tons. Indiana has the largest Great Lakes port district located in a single state.

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Cleanup of Lead Superfund Site in East Chicago Begins

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency said that cleanup of the of Zone 1 of the USS Lead Superfund site in East Chicago, IN will begin this summer and is expected to be completed by the end of this year. The location encompasses the now-demolished West Calumet Housing Complex, a portion of Goodman Park, and a utility corridor.

Under EPA's supervision, Industrial Development Advantage of East Chicago (IDA) will remove more than 100,000 tons of contaminated soil from Zone 1 and replace it with clean fill. IDA will dispose of contaminated soil at a permitted facility off-site.

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Franciscan Health Crown Point wins Peregrine Award

Franciscan Health Crown Point has been awarded the inaugural Peregrine Award for Trauma Innovation by Peregrine Health Services, LLC for its efforts to improve the treatment of patients with substance use disorders. A panel of independent judges selected Franciscan Health Crown Point's innovative project from a group of 10 finalists, with the application receiving the highest total score in its category.

LIKE-FOLLOW-SHARE



PLEASE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

New Owner Members

Center of Workforce Innovations
SunCoke Energy

New Associate Members

BOLDT
Michuda Construction, Inc.
Erosion Construction Services
PetroChoice

EVENTS & MEETINGS

DON'T TAKE THE BAIT
FINANCIAL FRAUD | IDENTITY THEFT
PRESENTED BY IRS SPECIAL AGENTS
Wednesday, July 26th
Registration: 7:30am Program: 8am to 9:30am

NWIBRT HARD HAT CHARITY GOLF OUTING
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH 2023
WHITE HAWK COUNTRY CLUB | CROWN POINT, IN

Don't Miss the Golf Outing. It's Huge This Year!

The 2023 NWIBRT Hard Hat Charity Golf Outing sold out super quick this year! But if your company is not registered, that doesn't mean you'll have to miss out on all of the fun.

Tickets are still available for the reception that follows the rounds of golf. (September 15th) This is one of the best times to come out and network with hundreds of other company representatives that will be in attendance. Plus, the raffles and prizes are awarded during this reception, and it's a ton of fun.

Several premier sponsorship opportunities are also still available, but they're filling up quickly. If you would like to see your company prominently featured during the event, click the button below to see the available options.

[Click Here for More Info and to Register](#)

TURKEY SHOOT
Wednesday, October 4th
Rain Date: Thursday, October 5th

Shotguns at the Ready!

The NWIBRT Turkey Shoot is coming up on October 4th. Are you ready to shoot some clay pigeons and win some prizes alongside your fellow NWIBRT members? It's going to be a total blast.

If you've never fired a shotgun, don't worry. You'll be shown how to use it. If you do not own a shotgun, one will be provided.

Shells are included with registration, and tickets and sponsorships are still available.

[Click Here for More Info and to Register](#)

Don't Take the Bait Financial Fraud Event

July 26th | Ironworkers 395 Hall Portage, IN

NWIBRT Safety Committee Meeting

September 5th | CAF | Portage, IN

NWIBRT Hard Hat Charity Golf Outing

September 15th | Crown Point, IN White Hawk Country Club

NWIBRT Safety Committee Meeting

October 3rd | CAF | Portage, IN

Turkey Shoot

October 4th | Schneider, IN So. Lake Co. Conservation Club

Fall Seminar

October 12th | 8am to 12pm Location TBD

2023 Business and Economic Outlook

November 3rd | 8am to 12pm Ivy Tech Community College Valparaiso, IN

[Click Here to See the Full Calendar of Events](#)

GET INVOLVED WITH NWIBRT!

The more you and your company get involved with NWIBRT, the more doors open up to new opportunities for your career and your business. Now's the time to get involved and help us shape the future of our industry.

JOIN A COMMITTEE

It's the best way our members can share best practices in safety and develop new learning opportunities.

FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

Help spread the word about all the good things about NWIBRT.

ATTEND NWIBRT EVENTS

You'll learn a ton, have a great time, and you'll make new contacts.

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Does your company have news to share? The NWIBRT newsletter accepts positive stories about:

- Promotions
- Business Growth/New Hires
- Project Highlights
- New Developments in Safety

[Click Here to Share Your News](#)

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