

CISCO

CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

Construction Industry Service Corporation - www.cisco.org - 630.472.9411 - Dan Allen, Executive Director

LABOR UNIONS ANNOUNCE VACCINATION PLAN FOR MEMBERS

Labor leaders within the union construction industry, having recently fought for their essential workers to be included in the state's vaccination plan, have announced plans to provide vaccinations to their active union members.



IBEW Local 134 is joining forces with Pipefitters Local 597 and the Chicago Laborers' District Council to offer COVID-19 vaccines to all active members who want to be vaccinated.

The vaccines will be provided by a local healthcare system at sites set up exclusively for these union members who are eligible for plan benefits.

For now, the plan is to allow vaccines for active union members only, with the hope of offering vaccines to spouse and dependents at a later date.

Expectations are for the vaccination program to launch in mid-April, so stay tuned for further details on how to register to get your vaccine.

This announcement coincides with other vaccination news involving the Chicago Federation of Labor and City of Chicago that will enable the vaccination of roughly 1,200 people per week.

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



The official announcement of the 2021 Scholarship Program winners is coming soon, pending verification of and notification to the winners. Look for the information in the next *News Briefs!*

CISCO/ST. PAUL PROVIDES VACCINATIONS TO 150 PEOPLE

"Excited, blessed and grateful" were common phrases heard from those who received a COVID-19 vaccination as part of an event organized by CISCO, St. Paul Church of God in Christ and Oak Street Health on March 31st.

St. Paul Pastor Kevin Ford and CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen both stated that the event was another example of outreach efforts that enhance the lives of community residents in countless ways.

Vaccine recipient Erma Williams said "My husband and I are so grateful to receive the shots. As new grandparents we are eager to hold our grandson in person."



Above: Erma and Robert Williams receive their vaccine shots. Below: Event organizers give a group thumbs up.



CISCO/CTA "CONSTRUCTION TALKS" TO FEATURE OPERATING ENGINEERS LOCAL 150 - APRIL 30TH

Next up in the *Construction Talks* series is Operating Engineers Local 150 and its Apprenticeship Program and Training Center located in Wilmington, Illinois.

Interested in learning more about **CAREERS** in the **CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY** ?

Featuring Operating Engineers Local 150
Friday, April 30 from 12:00pm to 1:00pm
 Register for this webinar here:
http://bit.ly/CTA_150

On Friday, April 30, from Noon to 1:00 pm., the webinar will highlight the sights and sounds of the program, as well as interviews with current apprentices.

The apprentices will provide insight to those who attend the virtual tour how their experience has been, and the program's coordinators and instructors will give an overview of what they are looking for in candidates who apply for entry into the apprenticeship program.

ANNUAL LUNCHEON UPDATE

CISCO's Board of Directors has decided that the organization will move forward with an in-person event - **tentatively scheduled for July** - that will feature Project of the Year, Educator of the Year, Public Body of the Year and Labor Advocate of the Year winners, along with presentations of scholarship awards to the student winners. Stay tuned for more details.

More news and photos on the back page.

CISCO ON THE MOVE

CISCO ANNOUNCES NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBER



Sterling Bay - Developers, investors, builders, innovators - is the latest company to join CISCO as an associate member.

Sterling Bay is the developer of the dynamic Lincoln Yards project, which is a vibrant new development that will connect Chicagoans to over 50 acres of riverfront sitting between two of the city's most iconic neighborhoods: Lincoln Park and Bucktown.



Artist's rendering of the Lincoln Yards project.

CISCO has been a partner with Sterling Bay and testified before the City Council on the project's benefits which helped gain approval.

CISCO and Sterling Bay share the same passion as the project will create thousands of construction jobs, 23,000 permanent jobs, and generate much-needed tax revenue.

Lincoln Yards will also bring a commitment to increase diversity levels among the workforce, who will be part of this historic and game-changing project.

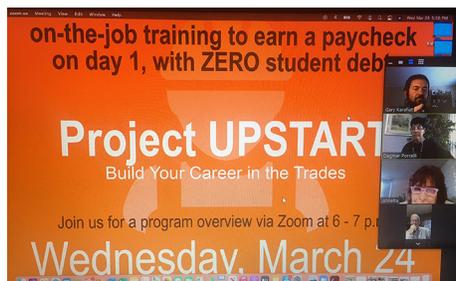
In addition, a life sciences building will be built on West Concord Place in Bucktown and take up 320,000 square feet at the Lincoln Yards site.

Sterling Bay officials said the life sciences building portfolio will accelerate innovation across the full spectrum of the industry's ever-changing needs.

The entire project will be built under a Project Labor Agreement.

CISCO TEAMS UP WITH RESILIENT ON "PROJECT UPSTART"

CISCO has joined a Villa Park-based not-for-profit organization to move Project Upstart forward. An initial webinar helped kick off the idea to a group of interested students last week.



The UPSTART program was created by Resilient and its community partners to offer non-college bound young adults the opportunity to learn the skills necessary to take and pass the apprenticeship exam for the trades.

Once a student gains admission into a trade apprenticeship program, they will be provided with hands-on training, and gain the necessary competencies to become a full-time employee. Resilient has partnered with seven Chicagoland-based contractors which will sponsor the selected students to endure acceptance into an apprenticeship program.

Representatives from four different companies which work with trades that include carpenters, flooring, glaziers, ironworkers, painters and decorators were on hand to promote the program.

Companies and speakers on hand were 1) John Blacketer of Executive Construction Inc.; 2) Mike Swanberg of MTH Industries; 3) George Spanske of Flooring Resources; and Gary Kunish of Pinnacle Decorating.

CISCO's Dan Allen and Johnetta Ryan provided an overview of many of the traits and skills that apprenticeship coordinators are looking for in its applicants to their training programs.

Resilient's Project Upstart received a grant from Worknet DuPage, which will help students obtain a career in the union construction industry.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

An effort to amend the Public Construction Bond Act (**SB 178**) to provide that a local government entity may not require retainage when a contractor has furnished a surety bond or its equivalent is being led by the Illinois Mechanical & Specialty Contractors Association (IMSCA).



This bill is a continuation of IMSCA's previous work on retainage reform. IMSCA and other contractor associations and the building trade unions worked hard for many years seeking a reduction in retainage on private, commercial construction projects; which became law in 2019.

Retainage is still withheld at an unreasonably high rate of 10% for most government construction projects, even though a payment and performance bond is also required to protect local governments from defects and delinquencies. The combination of the two is excessive, and creates unnecessary cash flow burdens. **SB 178** will ease this financial burden experienced by many contractors.

ONCE IN A GENERATION PLAN

CISCO and its members will be excited to support President Biden's \$2.25 trillion infrastructure plan that includes work for roads, bridges, high-speed rail, airports, modernizing water delivery systems, schools, hospitals, affordable housing, broadband and electric grid expansion, among others.

"This is a once in a generation infrastructure plan to rebuild America, create jobs and boost the economy," Biden said.

