



# CISCO

## CONSTRUCTION NEWS BRIEFS

Construction Industry Service Corporation - [www.cisco.org](http://www.cisco.org) - 630.472.9411 - Dan Allen, Executive Director

### PREVAILING WAGE SEMINAR DRAWS WIDESPREAD PUBLIC BODY INTEREST

A group of more than 160 attendees comprised of municipal leaders, labor and industry executives, attorneys and construction contractors turned out for last week's Prevailing Wage Seminar, co-sponsored by CISCO, at the Double Tree Suites Hotel in Downers Grove.

Other sponsors included the Indiana, Illinois, Iowa Foundation for Fair Contracting (III-FFC), PAMCANI, PCA, Chicago Plumbing Council, UCA, MCA Chicago and other organizations. The seminar featured the Illinois Department of Labor and the Attorney General's Office's efforts to educate the audience on the Illinois Prevailing Wage and Freedom of Information Acts, how to ensure compliance, and the changing landscape of prevailing wage coverage.

III-FFC Executive Director Marc Poulos, University of Illinois Professor and Director of Labor Education Bob Bruno, Illinois Economic Policy Institute Director Frank Manzo, Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) Director Joe Costigan and IDOL Chief Counsel Ron Willis were the principal presenters throughout the seminar.

Both Prof. Bruno and Frank Manzo focused on how the Prevailing Wage serves as a greater taxpayer value to our communities, while Costigan and Willis provided an overview of how the IDOL enforces the Prevailing Wage Act.

Further emphasizing the point on taxpayer value, is the fact that the building trades unions and their affiliated contractors spend more than \$1 billion a year on apprenticeship and journey-level training, making the JATC system one of the largest privately



funded education systems in the nation.

Marc Poulos delivered a passionate recap of the opening presentation by describing how building trade apprenticeship programs provide hundreds of more hours of training than nearly all university bachelor degree programs.

He went on to add that "when we build a structure we want to make sure the architect and engineer have the proper training and credentials, yet when it comes to the individuals who actually build our schools, libraries, park district facilities and municipal buildings for our children and families; we don't care about the training and the credentials of the construction workers."

Marc Poulos contends that the prevailing wage rates for construction workers are more than appropriate to ensure that buildings are constructed to code, built safely, on time and within budget - done right the first time - thus saving taxpayers from cost overruns, and delivering a safe product for families, children and other users.

To obtain copies of the seminar presentations and materials, contact CISCO at 630-472-9411.



*Professor Bob Bruno walks the audience through the educational and monetary value of construction industry trade apprentices.*



*III-FFC Executive Director Marc Poulos provides opening remarks.*



*CISCO Executive Director Dan Allen gives audience an overview of CISCO's labor-management mission.*



*CISCO Board Member and PAMCANI Executive Director SJ Peters (left) moderates a panel discussion.*