



CISCO

COMMUNICATOR

A Newsletter for Chicagoland Construction Labor & Management Professionals

“Den Mom” Johnetta Ryan to Retire June 1st



In the words of Frank Sinatra, Johnetta Ryan did it her way.

After 20 years as the Director of CISCO’s Education to Careers Program, Johnetta is hanging up her air horn and tool bag (items she brought to every Hands-On Fair). What she leaves behind is a method of working with apprenticeship coordinators, teachers, counselors and students

that was truly unique, persuasive and inspiring.

“I’m proud of the fact that I helped get the word out about the trades to tens of thousands of people and was able to build relationships with different organizations,” she said. “Working with my co-workers and the apprenticeship coordinators, who have been like my kids has been wonderful. The coordinators call me Den Mom.”

Johnetta was hired on January 15, 2001, coming from IBEW Local 21, where she was a Business Agent and represented AT&T.

“I felt like I was a perfect fit here at CISCO, because I was helping people to find career paths, similar to what I was doing at my previous job,” she said.



A typical scene as Johnetta talks to young adults about a career in construction.

Johnetta’s legacy will always be that she spent 20 years working with the skilled trades by promoting career opportunities within the trades’ world-class apprenticeship training centers.

She brought a unified message to: Community colleges, high schools, middle schools, community groups, veterans organizations, women’s groups, faith-based organizations, Boy Scouts/Explorers, non-violent offenders and school counselors.



Johnetta received the GLCA’s MacGruder Award in 2018 for Lifetime Achievement.

When asked what she will miss the most, she said, “Everything! Numerous people would tell me ‘we heard that you are the expert’. I will miss being the expert and talking with adults,” she joked.

Johnetta has a lot of great memories from her time working with students and recalled that the “best memories” are the students who came to her afterward and wanted more information and would contact her later.

She added that her first Executive Director Rich Blackwell told her - “as long as you reach one person, you’ve reached someone who is truly interested.”

For more on Johnetta’s retirement see pages 4 & 6

Tentative Luncheon in July

CISCO is tentatively planning on an in-person Annual Luncheon in July to recognize Pride in Construction awardees, as well as Scholarship Program winners.

When State of Illinois and CDC guidelines permit such an event, CISCO will announce the details as soon as possible to all of our members and supporters.

To read about these winners, see the articles on pages 3 and 4.

From *the* Desk of the Executive Director



We have noticed an interesting reality as the country slowly comes out of the pandemic - a greater appreciation of what the skilled tradesmen and women, and contractors provide to our communities and society as a whole.

After September 11, 2001, that kind of appreciation for first responders was prevalent beyond a doubt. Now that same level of respect for contractors and the construction workforce has emerged.

Construction workers were deemed an essential workforce by Governor Pritzker and rightly so. These skilled and dedicated men and women continued to perform their jobs, collaborated with contractors on new safety protocols, and adjusted to the pandemic without missing a beat.

Just as importantly, emergency/makeshift hospitals were built quickly, medical facilities were improved to accommodate that industry's special needs, and schools were upgraded to provide touchless technologies and air purification systems to name a few examples.

These air purification systems are the same that have been installed at our medical laboratories, used to make the critical vaccines that have been part of the pandemic recovery.

As the work returns, as our Board President Dave Henderson points out in his column on page 3, the need to ensure a pipeline of construction workers will be

greater than ever.

CISCO's mission of reaching out to schools, teachers, students and counselors about the opportunities available to young men and women of all backgrounds will continue under a new director.

CISCO bids farewell to its 20-year director Johnetta Ryan and has hired her replacement, Jamillah Muhammad, to continue CISCO's reputation as a leader in this area.

"We have noticed ... a greater appreciation of what the skilled tradesmen and women, and contractors provide to our communities and society as a whole."

Jamillah has spent 10 years as a journeyman electrician and another 3 1/2 years as an apprentice instructor. She also has experience with Women in Trades and Project Jump Start that provide all participants with the need to sharpen their skills in the areas of math and other important life skills.

It is a critical need to keep recruiting and producing a skilled workforce that are trained with knowledge of how to build and install complex systems and technologies that are important to ensure that residents and employees live and work in safe buildings and conditions.

CISCO's Education to Careers Program will transition to meet the construction demands in northeastern Illinois. As we all recover from the pandemic, our industry will do what it always does - move forward and adapt at warp speed.

Dan Allen
Executive Director

CISCO Golf Outing - SAVE THE DATE - September 13, 2021

Golf is back! Start planning your four-somes now for the annual shot-gun style outing and barbecue lunch, Monday, Sept. 13, 2021 at Bloomingdale Golf Club.

Register early; maximum of 140 golfers and luncheon guests.

- Registration and FREE practice range begins at 7 am
- Golf begins at 8 am
- Cocktails and lunch start around 1:30 pm

There are also many ways to sponsor the outing. Hole, Beverage Cart, Halfway House and Lunch sponsorships are



available, as well as registration table and prize donations.

Sponsorship costs are the same as 2019:

Hole - \$200 Beverage Cart - \$300

Halfway House - \$300 Lunch - \$500

Golf/Lunch only costs - same as 2019:

\$125 per golfer; \$475 per foursome (includes lunch) - \$40 LUNCH ONLY

Go to www.cisco.org to download the registration/sponsorship form—and return it us, or call 630-472-9411. Reserve your two-somes or four-somes soon as golfer maximum will be strictly enforced.

Presidential Perspective



In this issue, CISCO is welcoming Sterling Bay as its newest Associate Member. That is significant in a couple of ways. Sterling Bay is the developer of the dynamic **Lincoln Yards** project, a vibrant new multi-billion dollar, multi-phased development that will connect Lincoln Park and Bucktown over 50 acres of riverfront property.

One part of the significance is that CISCO and Sterling Bay are partners in their efforts to recruit a diverse new generation of young adults who will be presented the opportunity to apply to a building trades apprenticeship program of their choice, and hopefully become part of the workforce that contributes to various aspects of this project.

Secondly, this diversity effort is being repeated on many other fronts via mega projects such as One Central, The 78, the Obama Presidential Center, the O’Hare Modernization Plan and other projects such as JDL’s **One Chicago** development - two skyscrapers (one to be the Chicago’s 6th tallest building) on a one-block section of property across from Holy Name Cathedral.

Furthermore, these mega-projects are a positive sign as the construction industry moves forward in the post-pandemic years. And CISCO, a labor-management organization, will become even more relevant as it continues to build partnerships with contractors, developers, end-users and building trades organizations.

The **Obama Presidential Center** is set to break ground in the latter part of the summer. **The 78** is a project set on 62 acres with 13 million square feet of office, residential and retail space that knits together the Loop, South Loop, Chinatown, Little Italy, Bronzeville, Little Village and Pilsen neighborhoods. **O’Hare 21**, as it is called, is an \$8.5 billion modernization project, and **One Central** is perhaps the most unique plan that weaves transit infrastructure, civic and cultural assets, an emphasis toward the city’s south side and technology into one project.

CISCO, working in concert with these developers, demonstrates the need for labor and management to work collaboratively to utilize a diverse skilled workforce that will construct world-class buildings in our community.

Sincerely,

Dave Henderson
CISCO Board President

Scholarship Award Recipients For 2021 Chosen



The winners of CISCO’s 2021 Scholarship Program were recently chosen, and the students were formally notified in April. They will be recognized and honored during CISCO’s Annual Luncheon,

which has been tentatively scheduled for July.

An independent review of all the entries was conducted and the winners were certified. Eligible students were the sons and daughters of either building trade union members or union contractor employees.

Four-year scholarship winners:

- 1) **Bianca Arriaga** – Latin School of Chicago; Parent - Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11.
- 2) **Braiya Nolan** – Williams Bay HS; Parent - Carpenters Local 1027.
- 3) **Olivia Gardner** – Plainfield North HS; Parent - Gibson Electric/Electrical Contractors’ Association of Chicago.

Two-year scholarship winners:

- 4) **Kyle Strite** – Oregon HS; Parent - Local Union 792/Concrete Systems, Inc.
- 5) **Isabelle Schroedle** – Joliet Catholic Academy; Parent - Carpenters Local 10.

Continuing Education scholarships:

- 6) **Michael Chiamonte** – Elmhurst University; Affiliation - McWilliams Electric Company, Inc.
- 7) **Michael Repel** – City Colleges of Chicago, Kennedy King College; Affiliation - LiUNA - Laborers Local 1092.



 Governor JB Pritzker posed with 2019 winners.

Johnetta Ryan - A Pictorial Look at a Student Motivator

As CISCO bids farewell to Johnetta and her many accomplishments, here's a final look at the face of an inspiring promoter, persuader, motivator, ambassador and recruiter for the apprenticeship programs of the union construction industry. She will be greatly missed, and the CISCO team wishes her all the best!



Pride in Construction Winners To Take a Bow - Hopefully in July

CISCO has tentatively decided to hold an in-person event in July to recognize the 2020 Project of the Year Award winners.

In addition to the Project of the Year Awards, certain individuals are honored as part of CISCO's Pride in Construction Awards.

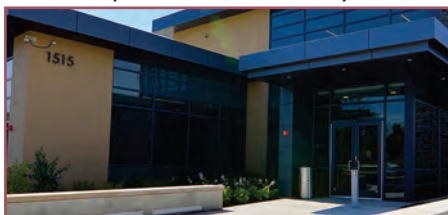
Named as Educator of the Year is **Jill Nagel**, Counselor at St. Rita High School; Public Body of the Year is the **Cook County Housing Authority**; and the Labor Advocate of the Year is **State Representative Marcus C. Evans Jr.**

The top choices of construction projects were:

New Construction - Chicago (+ \$20 m): Navy Pier Hotel & Rooftop Venue; GC - James McHugh Construction.



New Construction - Suburbs (+ \$20 m): City of St. Charles Police Department; GC - Riley Construction.



New Construction - City/Suburbs (Under \$20 m):

University of Chicago Medicine River East Ambulatory Care Center (left); GC - Turner Construction.



Infrastructure: CDOT Lake Front Trail Phase 2; GC - Kenny Construction (Photo below)



Rehabilitation: Chicago Riverwalk Esplanade & Marketplace; GC - F.H. Paschen (Photo below)



Residential: NEMA Chicago; GC - James McHugh Construction. (Photo at right)



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 Chicagoland Associated General Contractors
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 Concrete Contractors Assoc. of Greater Chicago
 Construction & General Laborers' District Council of Chicago & Vicinity
 Great Lakes Construction Association
 Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association
 LMCC (IBEW 117, 150, 461, & NECA-NEIL)
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 Operating Engineers Local 150
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 Underground Contractors Association

Member Organizations

Architectural & Ornamental Ironworkers Local 63
 Associated Steel Erectors
 Association of Glazing Contractors
 Boilermakers Local 1
 Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers District Council Local 1
 Cement Masons Local 502
 Cement Masons Local 502-B
 Chicago Reg. Council of Carpenters
 Chicagoland Associated General Contractors
 Chicagoland Roofing Council
 Chicagoland Sheet Metal Contractors Association
 Concrete Contractors Association of Greater Chicago
 Construction & General Laborers' District Council of Chicago & Vicinity
 Electrical Contractors Association of City of Chicago, Inc.
 Electrical Workers Local 117, 134, 150, 461, & 701

Finishing Contractors Association of Chicago
 Finishing Contractors Association of Illinois
 Glaziers Union Local 27
 Great Lakes Construction Association
 Heat & Frost Insulators Local 17
 Illinois Regional Insulation Contractors Association
 Illinois Road & Transportation Builders Association
 International Assoc. of Machinists and Aerospace Workers Local 126
 Ironworkers Local 1
 LMCC (IBEW Local 117, 150, 461 & NECA-NEIL)
 LMCC of Chicago (IBEW 134 & ECA)
 Machinery, Movers & Riggers Local 136
 Mason Contractors Association of Greater Chicago
 Mechanical Contractors Association

National Electrical Contractors Association
 Northeastern Illinois Sheet Metal Contractors Association
 Operating Engineers Local 150
 Painters District Council Local 30
 PCA Midwest
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 Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11
 Sheet Metal Workers Local 73
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 Sprinkler Fitters Local 281
 Teamsters Joint Council No. 25
 Underground Contractors Association

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AFL-CIO Building Investment Trust
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 Chicago & Cook County Building & Construction Trades Council
 Chicagoland Construction Safety Council
 Delta Dental
 DuPage County Building & Construction Trades Council
 Eye Boutique
 Fox Valley Building Trades Council

Fox Valley Construction Industry Advancement Program
 Great Lakes Advisors
 Hunt Insurance Group
 IBEW Local 9
 Illinois American Water
 Illinois Pipe Trades Council
 I.M.P.A.C.T.
 IUFC Local 2
 Labor Management Cooperation Committee of Chicago
 Labor Management Cooperative Committee of Northeastern Illinois

Lake County Building & Construction Trades Council
 Megent Financial
 Middle States Electrical Contractors Association
 Midland States Bank
 Multi-Employer Property Trust
 PowerForward DuPage
 Sav-RX Pharmacy Benefit Mgmt.
 ScreenSafe
 Sterling Bay
 UIG Union Insurance Group
 Ullico, Inc.

Community Partners

Boy Scouts of America
 Christmas Without Cancer

Exploring Real World Career Experiences
 Gateway to Learning

St. Paul Community Development Ministries, Inc.

NEWS BRIEFS/UPDATES CCAGC Annual Smoker

The Concrete Contractors Association of Greater Chicago is moving ahead with plans to host the 65th Annual Smoker on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 from 6 - 9:00 pm at The Diplomat West Banquets, 681 W. North Avenue in Elmhurst.

CCAGC is hoping the event will be able to be held, so check their website for updates - www.ccagc.org

UCA Scholarship Raffle

The Underground Contractors Association's Scholarship Raffle is underway! The Drawing will be open through the end of May.

You may purchase tickets for the prize(s) you want to win, and the prizes include tickets to sporting events, gift cards, golf foursomes, hotel packages and more!
 To register, go to www.uca.org

EDUCATION 70 CAREERS



Johnetta Ryan,
Director
Education-to-Careers

Calling It a Career - Parting Thoughts

Editor's note: Johnetta Ryan wrote a personal letter to apprenticeship coordinators and other colleagues whom are CISCO members. Below are excerpts of that letter:

For everything there is a beginning and an end. A dawn and a dusk. This is true for careers as well. I never would have guessed that after 30 years at AT&T that I would begin another career that would leave me with 20 years of challenges, accomplishments and memories. Now the sun is setting on my second career and my times as Director of Education to Careers (ETC) at CISCO is drawing to a close.

In 2001, I was hired by Rich Blackwell, my friend and mentor from the phone company. Rich taught me a lot about public speaking. I have been to hundreds of schools, church groups and community organizations, spreading the word about careers in construction. I have had the pleasure of working with so many new organizations, training them and imparting my "wisdom" for what it's worth.

I have met so many wonderful people. It would be impossible to mention all of you individually, but I would be remiss not to highlight my superb apprenticeship coordinators. I cannot count how many career days, hands-on events and meetings I attended. It's been one of the great pleasures of my life to be your "den mother".

Over the years, there have been many who have called CISCO home, and I have driven each one of them crazy. But I must single out Julia Mulvey, CISCO's Office Manager, who started on the very same day as I did, and has been a dear friend for 20 years.

In my time, I have had the privilege of working with three executive directors. Rich Blackwell, John Brining and currently Dan Allen. Dan has been a great partner to the ETC Program.

Though I can say unequivocally that I am overjoyed that I can put up my feet and relax, it would be a lie to say that I won't miss this job. Saying goodbye is bittersweet. The time has come for me to sit back and enjoy life. Fifty years, in total, I have given to organized labor.

My heart and thoughts are with the industry's working men and women who have made this country great. It's time for my successor, Jamillah Muhammad to take the reins. You've got many great people to meet, and your life will never be the same!

JAMILLAH MUHAMMAD STEPS IN AS NEW DIRECTOR



CISCO welcomes its new Education to Careers Director, Jamillah Muhammad to the team.

Jamillah comes to CISCO with impressive credentials. She is a Journeyman Communications Electrician serving three and one-half years as an instructor at IBEW NECA Technical Institute in Alsip. As a result, Jamillah possesses working knowledge of apprenticeship programs.

"I am excited to begin my journey with CISCO and helping students and adults understand the benefits of a career in the union construction industry," she said. "I have big shoes to fill as my predecessor, Johnetta Ryan, has built strong relationships with many, many school districts, veterans groups, faith-based organizations, women's groups, colleges, community groups; and especially the apprenticeship coordinators/instructors at each building trade."

Jamillah is a delegate of the Chicago Federation of Labor, and serves as a Board Member of the IBEW/CFL Scholarship Committee. A resident of Chicago, she is a mother of three beautiful children.

Legislative Update - General Assembly Wrapping Up Spring Session



The General Assembly is nearing the end of a busy Spring Session as more than 600 bills have been introduced in the House alone. Here is a synopsis of some bills that impact our industry:

1) HB 653 (Groundwater Monitoring) - An agreement with stakeholders has been reached that guts the original bill and replaces it with an increase of 40% in tipping fees paid to the state (20 to 28 cent per cubic yard) and tipping fees collected by local governments by 100%. The fee increase would take effect Jan. 1, 2022, and environmental groups agree to a moratorium on CCDD legislation.

2) Under consideration is HB 3437 (Hazardous Materials Workforce Training Act) - Currently, Illinois' high-hazard facilities DO NOT have state-sanctioned advanced safety training for contracted or sub-contracted workers. This Act calls for the development of approved safety training of workers at these facilities to achieve a skilled workforce to perform this work.

3) HB 1472 (Climate Union Jobs Act) - This bill sets labor standards when ratepayer dollars are used; preserves the diversity of the renewable energy sector with diversity hiring goals; and invests in proven jobs training programs, rate relief to low-

income families and reduces the state's emissions.

4) SB 2494 - Progress is being made on this bill which seeks to extend a sunset provision allowing the time a commercial construction project may last, and permit the filing of a mechanics lien from 3 to 5 years.

CISCO WELCOMES STERLING BAY AS NEW MEMBER

Sterling Bay - Developers, investors, builders,



innovators - is the latest company to join 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.

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.

"Construction Talks" Latest - Operating Engineers Local 150



Apprentices operate backhoe equipment at the Training Center.

With the April 30th webinar in the books, which featured the Operating Engineers Local 150's Training Center in Wilmington, CISCO and its partner - The Chicago Transit Authority - have now completed seven virtual tours of building trades'

apprenticeship training programs.

Like the others, interested students and young

adults were invited to view a one-hour presentation from the program's coordinator and/or instructors who provided an overview of what they are looking for in candidates who apply for entry into the apprenticeship program.

The webinar also featured a tour of the facility, as well as interviews with current apprentices.

To date, the "Construction Talks" series has highlighted the following trades: Chicago Regional Council of Carpenters, IBEW Local 134, Roofers & Waterproofers Local 11, Plumbers Local 130, Bricklayers/Ceramic Tile Setters/Tuckpointers, and the Pipefitters Local 597.



CISCO COMMUNICATOR

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CISCO Communicator is published by the Construction Industry Service Corporation (CISCO). CISCO is a labor-management group bringing together unions of the building trades and construction contractor associations representing more than 140,000 construction workers and 8,000 contractors in the six county Chicago Metropolitan area.

CISCO MISSION STATEMENT

It is the primary mission of CISCO to strengthen the unionized construction market in the greater Chicago Metropolitan area. In support of this mission, CISCO will perform three major roles: 1) Serve as a forum to facilitate dialogue between contractors and building trades union leaders concerning mutual problems and concerns; 2) Serve as a clearinghouse for information on the local construction industry; 3) Serve as a promotional group to encourage union construction with the user community and the general public. As a joint labor-management organization, CISCO will focus on cooperative efforts to reduce problems and conflicts and enhance the competitiveness of union construction. Through its activities, CISCO will build trust between the parties and will foster the joint commitment of local contractors and union labor to high quality, on-time, within budget delivery on all projects.

Suggestions, story ideas, or comments should be directed to CISCO at: 999 McClintock Dr., Suite 100, Burr Ridge, IL 60527

Contact Us At: (630)472-9411, Fax: (630)472-9413,
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Education-to-Careers Director: Johnetta Ryan
Director of Communications & Public Affairs: Gary Karafiat
Office Manager: Julia Mulvey

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Survey

1) What, if any, information or sections would you like to see included in future newsletters?

2) What, if any, sections do you think should be removed from the newsletter?

3) What, if any, programs would you like to see CISCO offer to its members in the future?

We value your input! Respond by:

E-mail: gary@cisco.org

Fax: (630) 472-9413

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