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Agency of Education Endorses National Center for Construction Education and Research Curriculum

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Barre, VT. – The Agency of Education this week announced its endorsement of the National Center for Construction Education and Research’s (NCCER) “Introductory Craft Skills” curriculum (www.nccer.org). The NCCER curriculum is used across the nation in education and training programs, by schools, colleges and employers’ in-house training programs. It culminates in stackable credentials and is being implemented this fall in all regional career technical education (CTE) center construction trades programs as part of a larger state initiative to develop career pathways in construction.

“Vermont is facing a shortage of skilled trades workers,” said Governor Phil Scott. “As people in the construction industry are quickly reaching retirement age, we lack a pipeline to fill those openings. We need to be doing everything we can to face this issue head-on, not only in the construction sector but across the economy,” Governor Scott added.

“The Agency of Education is doing its part to ensure that students leaving CTE programs have skills that employers are consistently telling us they need and to ensure that CTE students have the opportunity to pursue education beyond high school – whether it be a certificate, degree, or an apprenticeship,” said Deputy Secretary Heather Bouchey.

The endorsement of this curriculum is the result of several years of work, led by the Agency of Education, and conducted in partnership with the CTE center construction trades teachers and CTE center directors. The River Valley Technical Center in Springfield, Vermont and their construction trades teacher, Erin Hunter, along with Engelberth Construction and Trumbell-Nelson Construction played a key role in advocating for the adoption of the NCCER curriculum. The Vermont Talent Pipeline, a part of the Vermont Business Roundtable, played a pivotal role in convening members of the [Construction Employer Collaborative](#) to review and adopt the curriculum and credentials.

Jay Ramsey, the state’s Director of Career Technical Education (CTE) said “the Talent Pipeline has been a fantastic partner in this process. If they hadn’t been involved, we would not have employers across the state telling us they want to see applicants with these credentials. Employers committed to preferential hiring, and even higher starting wages for people coming to them with NCCER credentials.”

The Agency of Education has contracted with Associated Builders and Contractors of New Hampshire/Vermont to deliver the required teacher training. The Agency will be working with

regional CTE centers over the next several years to develop additional career pathways in construction trades and is planning to expand the role of apprenticeships in CTE construction trades programs that include a focus on training in plumbing, electrical, and HVAC. The Agency also plans to continue work with the Department of Labor and with Vermont Technical College to enhance the relationship between CTE construction trades programs and registered apprenticeship, and degree and certificate programs.

For additional information, including upcoming career pathway events, contact Dr. Oscar Aliaga, State Career Pathways Coordinator (oscar.aliaga@vermont.gov).

About NCCER — NCCER is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) education foundation created by the construction industry to develop standardized curriculum with portable credentials and to help address the skilled construction workforce shortage. NCCER is recognized by the industry as the training, assessment, certification and career development standard for the construction and maintenance craft professional. For more information, visit www.nccer.org.

About Vermont Talent Pipeline Management - VTPM project is a statewide, employer-led, demand-driven approach that organizes employer collaboratives to address an industry's most critical workforce needs by applying talent supply chain strategies and practices. The TPM model was developed by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation. VTPM is headquartered within the Vermont Business Roundtable.

About Vermont Business Roundtable - The Vermont Business Roundtable is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of CEOs from Vermont's top private and nonprofit employers, representing geographic diversity and all major sectors of the Vermont economy. The Roundtable is committed to sustaining a sound economy and preserving Vermont's unique quality of life by studying and making recommendations on statewide public policy issues.

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