

LEWIS COUNTY CHAPTER OF OLYMPIA MASTER BUILDERS



The Value of a Career in the Skilled Trades

A chronic labor shortage in the housing industry is resulting in higher construction costs, increased home prices and lower economic growth. It is now more essential than ever for professionals working in the sector to communicate the value of a career in the skilled trades. Below we have outlined a few key points about the benefits of working in residential construction:

The Housing Industry is Hiring

During the pandemic, the home building and remodeling industry have remained relative bright spots for the overall economy. And, with residential construction deemed an essential business across the country during COVID-19, there were very few layoffs in the construction sector.

Strong Earning Potential

The home building industry offers more than just another job, it is a pathway to earning a great salary. The top 25 percent in most construction trade professions earn at least \$60,000 annually. Women in the construction industry earn 97 cents for every dollar a man earns, compared to 80 cents in other industries. Check just a few National salary averages below:

- Carpenters are needed in all areas of construction and are often employed through the entire construction process. Thus, it is one of the most secure jobs within the industry. National average earning potential is \$52,850 with 8% growth through 2028.
- Modern life would not be possible without electricians. If you like to know how electric currents make



things work, then this is the trade for you. Qualified electricians are always in demand. National average earning potential is \$60,370 with 10% growth through 2028.

- Nearly all areas of construction rely on plumbers. If you enjoy working with your hands and solving problems, then this is the trade for you. Plumbers install, repair, and maintain pipes in residential, commercial and/or industrial buildings. National average earning potential is \$59,800 with 14% growth through 2028.
- Whenever a home is built, nearly all of the interior, and some of the exterior, surfaces need to be painted to protect

them from damage by water, mold and corrosion. Painting and maintaining painted surfaces improve the appearance and increases the value of a house. National average earning potential is \$44,640 with 6% growth through 2028.

A Variety of Training Programs Available

HBA's across the country can connect students to apprentice programs or other job training programs. Contact OMB today to help locate training programs in your area.

A Solid College Alternative

In 2018-19, the average amount borrowed by bachelor's degree recipients who took out loans to pay for college was \$28,800, according to the College Board's Trend in Student Aid 2020 report. The skilled trades offer an alternative to the 4-year college track without the burden of sky-high student loan debt.

A Strong Sense of Accomplishment

Working in the trades brings a sense of satisfaction for completing high-quality work that contributes to home building and ultimately helping to fulfill the American Dream.

OMB President, John Erwin from John Erwin Remodeling, Inc., says, "I like to explain how learning a trade, like being a carpenter,

allows you to live and work anywhere in the country and, in fact, the world. We have a whole generation of kids that were discouraged from entering the trades, only being encouraged to go to college after high school. The result of that philosophy, is there is a scarcity of employees in the field, which now makes trade work in very high demand. Plus, it's a very rewarding career."

The home building industry offers more than just another job — you can find a rewarding career and earn a great salary. The top 25% in most construction trades professions earn at least \$60,000 annually. And you don't need to follow the traditional college path to get there.

Now Accepting 2021 Omb Education Foundation Scholarship Applications!

The OMB Education Foundation is currently accepting applications for 2021 vocational scholarship grants to college or vocational/technical school-bound students, who currently reside within Thurston, Lewis, Mason, Pacific or Grays Harbor Counties. Last year, the OMB Education Foundation awarded five scholarships to students from Lewis County!

The OMB Education Foundation has been offering scholarships to assist students who plan to further their education in the building industry since 1993.

Applicants must be a U.S. citizen and intend to pursue studies leading to a career in the building industry, such as (but not limited to): Engineering, Architecture, Drafting, Industrial Design, Carpentry, Plumbing, Electrical, HVAC and Construction Management.

Applications must be postmarked no later than April 16, 2021. Download your application at omb.org/education/scholarships

The Building Industry Association of Washington (BIAW) also provides scholarships to students pursuing a degree in home building and industry-related fields; visit biaw.com for more information.

2021 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION



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