

High Road to Sheet Metal: Western States Council (WSC)-Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART)

An Initiative of the California Workforce Development Board

This project will expand partnership between SMART union and California Association of Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors, National Association (CAL SMACNA) through the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committees (JATCs). It will grow training capacity and equip the workforce with the skills required to meet California building energy efficiency standards through partnership with the UC Davis Western Cooling Efficiency Center (WCEC). This project will result in a more diverse, resilient skilled-and-trained workforce that will contribute to the state's economic growth by creating good-paying union jobs and addressing sustainability concerns.

The goal is to deepen and expand industry-based worker-focused training partnerships that are strategically designed to address key challenges within the industry. As key industry leaders and supporters of California's energy efficiency and decarbonization efforts, the apprentices and journeypersons will be trained on California's evolving needs, resulting in a highly skilled and trained workforce that can cater to the state's ever-changing construction demands. This project focuses on energy efficiency and sustainability and aligns with the industry's shift towards more environmentally conscious practices. Workers will be equipped with the expertise to excel in the construction of energy-efficient buildings and systems, enhance market competitiveness and significantly increase growth in the sheet metal trade within the construction industry.

TARGET POPULATION

This project will collaborate with pre-apprenticeship programs throughout the state, specifically serving marginalized communities, including undocumented individuals, young people of color, justice-involved individuals, LGBTQIA+ community members, women, foster youth, veterans, and people with disabilities.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

- Train Apprentices and Journeypersons to earn International Certification Board (ICB)/Testing, Adjusting and Balancing Bureau (TABB) Certifications.
- Train Apprentices and Journeypersons to earn International Certification Board (ICB)/Mechanical Acceptance Test (MATT) Certifications.
- Enroll 2,477 participants, 690 completers with opportunities for career advancement.

KEY PARTNERS

- California Association of Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors, National Association (CAL SMACNA)
- SMART Local 104
- SMART Local 105
- SMART Local 206
- UC Davis Western Cooling Efficiency Center
- Environmental Advocacy Group
- Palomar College

