

CASCADIA TECHNICAL ACADEMY BUILDING HOUSES TO BUILD CAREERS



By Laurie Harquail

On a cool clear morning, a bright yellow school bus rolls up to a construction site in a residential neighborhood in Vancouver, Washington. A crew of high school students from Cascadia Technical Academy step off, put on their hard hats and get to work on the home they're building.

The students – juniors and seniors – are enrolled in the school's Construction Technology program, which is designed to prepare them for entry-level positions in the construction industry. Cascadia Tech offers free hands-on training for juniors and seniors who are interested in the trades or preparing for construction-oriented college programs. Students come from 29 Clark County high schools.

NW Natural supports the program by donating natural gas equipment such as high efficiency furnaces and tankless water heaters. And Nina Carlson, the company's community affairs manager for Clark County, serves on the board of directors for the academy's foundation.

"Cascadia Tech is doing important work to provide opportunities for young people in our region," Carlson said. "We're proud to support the academy's mission to help build the workforce of the future that Clark County needs to continue to flourish."

Teacher Lance Landis works with the students on site, helping them review building plans and raise trusses. "The students build the home and do the lion's share of the work. I'm here to provide guidance," he says.

Cascadia Tech emphasizes professionalism, and it shows in the quality of the work. Academy-built homes have an excellent reputation with builders and inspectors.

"Cascadia Tech is doing important work to provide opportunities for young people in our region."

Student Sheridan Van Hyning comes from a long line of construction workers, including her grandfather, father and mother. She wants to carry on the family tradition and apply what she's learning to building homes for people in need. "These skills will allow me to do fulfilling and meaningful work," she says.

Student Jakob Voorhies appreciates the broad scope of the program and the sense of accomplishment. "You learn about the whole house from the foundation up," he says. "And it's great to step back and say, 'I helped build a home for someone.'"

To learn more about the Construction Technology program, visit cascadiatechnicalacademy.org. To donate to the academy's foundation, visit ccscfoundation.com. <<

KUDOS David Bellinger, Albany. A Corvallis customer complimented David Bellinger, saying "Your guy yesterday was fantastic! Man does he know his way around a gas line."

Sunset Crew. A customer emailed the following praise for **Norm Owen, Eric Brady** and **Dale Throm**:

"I wanted to send my appreciation and kudos to the team that came to my home today to do the gas supply line relocation. The three gentlemen made the process enjoyable and showed their dedication and professionalism to the job. They make me a proud NW Natural customer and make me and my family feel safe knowing they are on the job. Great job guys!" (June 2017)