



## CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY UPDATE BY ABC

By: JACK DARNALL  
National Chairman  
Associated Builders and Contractors



# Rebuilding the Gulf Coast while building the work force of tomorrow

The 2005 hurricane season proved to be one of the most devastating ever for the Gulf Coast. Tens of thousands of homes and businesses were either damaged or destroyed. In a region where demand for construction craft professionals significantly exceeded supply even before the storms, local officials were left scratching their heads and asking, "Where are we going to find enough trained, skilled individuals to rebuild?"

To help answer this question, the construction industry has launched the Gulf Rebuild: Education, Advancement and Training (GREAT) campaign, a public-private program that seeks to recruit and train 20,000 new construction workers across the Gulf Coast in basic construction skills by 2009.

Participants will enroll in a four-week course that provides entry-level skills to begin a career in the construction industry. The program is open to legal U.S. residents who can pass a basic literacy assessment, and in some states, a drug test. Training will primarily be conducted at local community and technical colleges by instructors certified by the National Center for Construction Education and Research, a not-for-profit

education foundation created to help address the critical work force shortage facing the construction industry. Residents who complete the training will be qualified to work in basic entry-level construction jobs paying between \$10 and \$14 per hour. Additional training in various construction specialties will be made available in the future as the program expands.

The GREAT campaign is sponsored by the Gulf Coast Workforce Development Initiative (GCWDI), a partnership involving federal, state and local government agencies; businesses; community organizations; and construction trade groups and associations. The Business Roundtable (BRT), an association of 160 CEOs from the nation's leading corporations, initiated the effort, and BRT members will provide the majority of funding for the program. Additionally, the state of Louisiana has committed job training funds, and U.S. Department of Labor Pathways to Construction grants are also being used to support the program.

ABC has also played a key role in this vital initiative. ABC's national office provided \$25,000 to support the GREAT program, and ABC chapters in the region are working

to provide training.

For example, ABC's Pelican chapter has partnered with Baton Rouge Community College in Baton Rouge, La., and Sowela Technical Community College in Lake Charles, La., to train GREAT participants. The training courses are provided tuition-free and include information on basic safety, construction math, blueprint reading, basic rigging, and the use of hand and power tools. Participants also receive a "certificate of completion" in fork lift and high lift operation. Additionally, the courses include hands-on safety training in electrical, instrumentation, pipefitting, millwright, boilermaking, welding and industrial carpentry technology.

Another key element of the GREAT program is recruitment. GCWDI plans to raise awareness about the GREAT training opportunities using billboard advertising, radio advertisements and special promotional events throughout the Gulf Coast. GCWDI has also created an interactive Web site where Gulf Coast residents can view information on training locations, dates and

times, and register if they are interested.

There is no doubt that the rebuilding of the Gulf Coast will take many years, but ABC and the construction industry will remain committed to the GREAT program.

*Through GREAT, Gulf Coast residents have the opportunity to rebuild their homes and businesses and build successful careers.*

Through GREAT, Gulf Coast residents have the opportunity not just to rebuild their homes and businesses, but to build successful careers in the construction industry. Together, we can provide hope to the residents of this hard-hit region.

For more information, visit the GREAT Web site, [www.imgreat.org](http://www.imgreat.org), or call (888) 52-GREAT [524-7328].

For more information on ABC, call (703) 812-2069 or visit [www.abc.org](http://www.abc.org). □

# Stay in CONTROL

• Dynamic/predictive

CES is a full-service company specializing in centrifugal compressors and compressed air systems, providing reliability and energy efficient solutions.

(CES) A.T.A.C.  
Aerial Turbine Air Compressor

Compressor #1 Airflow

Vibration 18.44 H112  
Inlet Pressure 124.0 psia  
Inlet Temperature 125.0 F  
Discharge Pressure 126.0 psia  
Discharge Temperature 125.0 F

Inlet Valve Open

125.0 H 125.0 F



Compressor #2 Airflow

Vibration 18.37 H112  
Inlet Pressure 124.0 psia  
Inlet Temperature 125.0 F  
Discharge Pressure 126.0 psia  
Discharge Temperature 125.0 F

• Repair services on Recips