



MEDIA RELEASE

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START Center, KCS and TCAT Team Up for Trades Dual-Enrollment

KNOXVILLE, Tenn.— One of Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs’ key initiatives – the START Center – welcomed eight seniors from Central High School this semester thanks to a partnership among TCAT, the Associated Builders and Contractors of Greater Tennessee and Knox County Schools. The opportunity will provide these highly qualified students with multiple opportunities within the trades.

The Skilled Trades Academy and Regional Training Center – dubbed the START Center – opened last year and is designed to attract and train construction workers. It is located at 1801 N. Central St. and is run by ABC of Greater Tennessee.

"This dual enrollment program is a testament to our commitment to preparing our students for successful careers," said Knox County Mayor Glenn Jacobs. "The education and hands-on experience they receive will prepare them for a promising future."

ABC Greater Tennessee is providing NCCER Core Certification - a training course that prepares individuals for entry - level construction jobs – and matching each student with an industry partner for hands on learning opportunities in the field.

"ABC Greater Tennessee is extremely proud of our Construction Trades Academy in Knoxville," said Clay Crownover, President and CEO of ABC Greater Tennessee. "Our partnership with Knox County to offer trades training to local high school students is a significant step toward providing them with a strong career path after graduation while strengthening the region’s workforce with skilled, quality tradespeople for the future."

Kelli Chaney and her team at the Tennessee Colleges of Applied Technology, or TCAT, are teaching a dual enrollment course which gives students college credit toward furthering their education following graduation.

"TCAT Knoxville’s partnership with the START Center embodies the power of collaboration in driving workforce development and empowering individuals with skills for success," notes Kelli Chaney, President of TCAT Knoxville. "Dual enrollment is key to preparing students for careers in the skilled trades, providing a head start on their path to certification and employment."

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