



Horizons

nevada™

state contractors board

May 2018



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HAVE A SUGGESTION FOR THE NEXT ISSUE?

Send us an e-mail and let us know!

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AVAILABLE ONLINE (click to view)

- [NSCB 2017-18 Strategic Plan](#)
- [Consumer brochures](#)
- [Contractor brochures](#)
- [NSCB Newsroom](#)
- Residential Recovery Fund brochure - [Useful Tool for Contractors](#)

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Message from Chair Margaret Cavin

As I mentioned in this space last quarter, one of the most rewarding aspects of serving on the Contractors Board is the opportunity to interact with members who are dedicated to protecting the public while preserving the integrity of the construction industry.

One such way the Contractors Board has been actively engaged in this is through its participation in the occupational licensing consortium. As I'm sure you've heard, professional licensing is under fire across the nation. And while it makes sense to more easily allow floral arrangers and hair braiders to make a living without unnecessary regulation, the Nevada State Contractors Board stands firm in its belief that construction trades whose work bears directly on not only the health and safety of the public, but on the integrity of our homes, public buildings and infrastructure, should follow model regulatory agency standards in the acquisition of professional licensure.

Construction, among other careers, takes a certain amount of skill and specialized knowledge. Property owners deserve to know their contractors have passed these requirements and can live up to the profession's ethical standards.

That is our job as board members, and it is one I believe Nevada's citizens and reputable, licensed contractors appreciate. And while we are not about to compromise when it comes to preserving people's health and safety, we continue to search for ways to make licensing and



regulation less burdensome on the state's building professionals.

Board members, executives and staff have been studying and implementing several initiatives designed to streamline the license application process, including licensing by endorsement, offering additional exam locations in neighboring states, and mitigating the causes of delay for applicants.

It is a transformative time in Nevada's construction industry. Much-needed projects that will definitively change our roadways continue to launch; large businesses keep earmarking Nevada as their headquarters of record, requiring much in the way of development to occur to accommodate their move; major league sports teams have been added to our state's industry, giving rise to the need for homes, practice facilities, fan-based retail shops, and a host of other amenities; and, construction and improvements along the resort and casino corridors of both southern and northern Nevada are back in full swing. We have much to anticipate in the coming months, and the Board looks forward to embracing these milestones each and every step of the way.

Message From Margi Grein, Executive Officer

As we rapidly approach the end of the 2017-2018 fiscal year, I can't help but think of the famous words of Henry Ford – "Coming together is the beginning, keeping together is progress, and working together is success." This sentiment couldn't be any more relevant than it is right now in Nevada.

Our state and industry have weathered much in the past decade. We have overcome obstacles, endured economic changes, faced tragedies, and reveled in the new footholds brought to our state by expanding markets and the addition of professional sports. We have come a long way since 2008.

And in the ever-changing tide of legislative measures, agency reform, regulatory preparedness, economic fluctuations and strategic planning, the Contractors' Board remains resolute in its commitment to the public and the industry.

As you have probably seen or read, occupational licensing reform remains a hot topic that continues to gain momentum and attention across the nation. During this past quarter, I remained actively engaged in the Occupational Licensing Consortium, provided information on the regulatory purpose and structure of the Contractors Board, and worked with state leaders on strategic solutions and initiatives designed



to improve licensing board policies while aiding the state's workforce development efforts, without compromising the health, safety and welfare of the public. One of the most important and notable solutions being sought is ways to reduce barriers to licensure for industry professionals.

The Board is already taking proactive measures to embrace licensing by endorsement. Senate Bill 69 required that all licensing boards implement programs to provide for licensure by endorsement for applicants who are licensed in states with similar requirements. Under certain circumstances the Board will waive the trade examination requirement and the experience certification requirement for applicants that qualify for licensure by endorsement. These waivers will be granted for applicants who are licensed in states determined by Nevada to have substantially equivalent

requirements.

The State Contractors Board is also participating in the Legislative Commission's Sunset Subcommittee review. The Subcommittee is a permanent subcommittee of the Legislative Commission who is responsible for conducting reviews of all boards, commissions, and similar entities that have been created by the Nevada Legislature. Charged with determining whether those entities coming under its review should be continued, modified, consolidated with another board or commission, or terminated, the Subcommittee has been provided with extensive information on NSCB operations and the Commission on Construction Education.

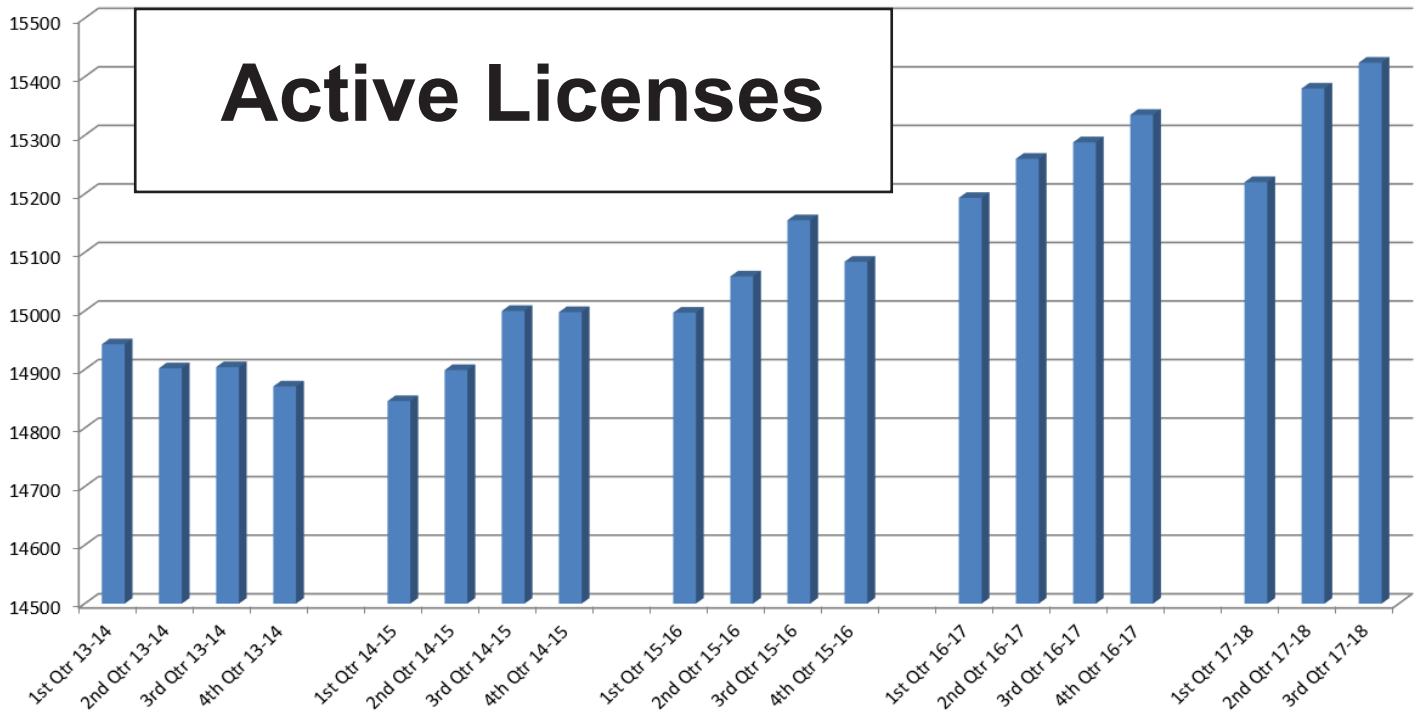
Gearing up for our next Legislative Session, the Board has submitted several bill draft requests concerning licensing requirements, Recovery Fund and other measures to improve processes. Our success with these measures at the legislative level will be highlighted in future Horizons issues, so please check back in the coming quarters.

Lastly, continuing our quest to become a model regulatory agency, the Board met in March for our annual Strategic

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Licensing

NSCB's Licensing Department is responsible for processing license applications and ensuring all necessary qualifications are met. Applicants are encouraged to attend a free Business Assistance Program offered twice a month by the Board, which guides applicants through key areas of the application, experience qualifications, and exam and bonding requirements.



QUARTERLY STATISTICS

475 New License Applications (+19%)

264 Licenses Issued (-8%)

714 Change Applications (-8%)

15,424 Active Licenses (+1%)

629 Inactive Licenses (-20%)

44 Placed on Inactive Status (-21%)

88 Voluntarily Surrendered (-4%)

1,811 Active License Renewals (-5%)

54 Inactive License Renewals (-39%)

187 Licenses Suspended (no bond) +10%

208 Licenses Cancelled: (-15%)

148 Financial Reviews Received

- 166 Pending
- 39 Tabled
- 156 Approved

12 Application Denial Hearings (-37%)

10 Financial Responsibility Hearings (+100%)

Enforcement - *Licensed Contractors*

NSCB's Compliance Investigations Division assists homeowners and licensed contractors with contracting matters, such as workmanship issues, money owing complaints and violations of industry regulations.

Roof repairs done after Board order

Contractors Board action ensured an elderly couple finally got their roof repairs completed.

The Contractors Board issued a Notice to Correct to the contractor after receiving a complaint in February from an elderly couple who had been trying for nearly a year to get their roof repaired.

The roof had been repaired before the couple moved in to the home in the summer of 2016. However, the first rainstorm of 2017 revealed the roof still leaked. The contractor acknowledged that the original repairs were made to the wrong roof location. Although the contractor agreed to send workers out to make the correction, the homeowners went an entire year with no action taken.

Once the couple filed a complaint with the Contractors Board, their concerns were validated



and the Notice to Correct issued. The contractor quickly complied with the notice, and the homeowners' concerns were resolved within one month of the subsequent jobsite visit.

QUARTERLY STATISTICS

420 Complaints Opened

211 Workmanship

63 Money Owing

80 Industry Regulation

54 Administrative Citations Issued

\$61,600 in fines

\$16,147 in investigative costs

23 Cases Referred to Disciplinary Hearing

16 Licenses Revoked

19 Fines Imposed totalling \$52,050

\$29,508 in investigative costs

Pool builder defaults; Recovery Fund steps in

During the quarter, the Contractors Board's Residential Recovery Fund Committee awarded three homeowners nearly \$41,000 for claims against Rainbow Pool Construction. The claims were submitted due to abandonment of work projects.

The Board previously had revoked Rainbow Pool's license after company owner and trade qualifier, Bertram Short, admitted he did not have the financial wherewithal to complete the projects.

The Residential Recovery Fund Committee's actions provided financial relief to each homeowner to ensure they will not be financially harmed by the company's inability to fulfill its obligations.

Enforcement - *Unlicensed Contractors*

NSCB's Criminal Investigations Division responds to all unlicensed contractor complaints. After gathering evidence, the Board submits cases to the district attorney, who may file and prosecute misdemeanor, gross misdemeanor or felony charges.

One arrested, 14 cited in NSCB sting operation

In March, Henderson Police supporting a Nevada State Contractors Board undercover sting arrested Brian Scott Skwierczynski on an outstanding warrant after he appeared at the sting house and offered a bid to build a stairway in excess of \$1,000.

Jeffery Gill was also caught in the sting after bidding to perform electrical work. He was previously convicted of a similar offense in 2015. As this is his alleged second offense, Gill faces gross misdemeanor charges of contracting and advertising without a license. Board investigators prepared and submitted the case to the district attorney's office.

Others cited for illegal contracting and advertising include Elizandro Valencia-Zaragoza, Todd William and Ross Restivo.

A similar March sting in Reno cited Kevin McGilvery, dba K-Mac's Handyman, for contracting without a license after he provided a bid for electrical work. Others cited in the Reno operation were Scott Clifton, doing business as Concrete Concepts and Masonry, Benjamin Benesch, dba Property Care Systems, Eli Barbarin, dba The Right Touch, and Jeffrey Laborgne. Raul Nuno was cited for advertising without a license after investigators discovered his truck parked near the sting location displayed an advertisement for Raul Nuno Handyman Service and offered roofing and painting work.

QUARTERLY STATS

326 Complaints Opened

- 171 Contracting w/o License
- 144 Unlawful Advertising
- 9 Criminal Fraud

7 Administrative Citations Issued

- \$58,500 in fines
- \$3,925 in investigative costs
- 9 Criminal Citations Issued

28 Criminal Affidavits Filed

65 Cease & Desist Orders Issued

Board warns of driveway scammers

During the quarter, the Contractors Board received word of several people running a fraudulent driveway sealing scam in the Reno area. Reno Justice Court issued a bench warrant for Bo Costello, charging him with obtaining money under false pretenses. Costello, 27, is one of several family members who operate "International Seal Coating and Paving."

The warrant was enhanced because the alleged victim is a senior citizen.

Less than a year ago, members of Costello's family were investigated for similar alleged scams, including sealing a barn roof which continued to leak after the owner paid \$3,250, and a driveway sealing job for which they charged and received \$14,000.

While the Costellos have left the area, "travelers" often return. The Board urges legitimate licensed contractors and homeowners to report any suspicious contracting activity.

Nevada Contractor's Checklist



The following information is provided to help Nevada Contractors work within the law. For full text of laws that affect contracting in Nevada, see Nevada's *State Contractors Board Handbook*, Chapter 624 of the Nevada Revised Statutes and Chapter 624 of the Nevada Administrative Code. Contact the Nevada State Contractors Board for a copy.

- Always make sure license number and monetary limit are on all contracts or bids. NAC 624.640(5)
- Keep your bond current. NRS 624.270
- Check to ensure that licenses or persons with whom you contract are valid and active. NAC 624.650
- Be sure name of business under which contractor is contracting is the same as the license number. NRS 624.305
- Be sure the amount of the bid or contract is within the monetary limit of the contractor. NRS 624.3015(2)
- Be sure that the contract is within the scope of work/license classification. NRS 624.3015(3)
- Know what you are contracting for, verify terms of the contract, and comply with terms of the contract. NRS 624.3013(1)
- If it is not in your written contract, it doesn't exist. Make sure all change orders are in writing and signed by all parties. NRS 624.3013(1)
- Include Residential Recovery Fund Disclosure on all residential contracts. NRS 624.520
- Provide customers with required Notice to Owner Disclosure. NRS 624.600(1)(2) and (3) as described in NAC 624.693 & NAC 624.6932
- Make sure your license number is on all business advertisements, including vehicles, business cards, letterhead, signage, directories, newspapers, website, etc. NRS 624.720
- Always make sure license number and monetary limit is on all contracts or bids. NAC 624.640(5)
- Your license number should be approximately 1 1/2 inches on your motor vehicle. NRS 624.288
- If your address or other pertinent information about the business changes, notify Contractors Board in writing within 30 days. NAC 624.640(3)

MESSAGE from page 4

Planning session. Highlighted in these discussions were topics concerning current and forecasted industry and economic trends, efforts to reduce barriers to licensure, unlicensed contractor enforcement, public outreach initiatives, and additional ways to improve the Board's efficiency and service to customers.

As we enter the next quarter, construction

statewide is on an upswing. The Raiders Stadium is well underway, as is Project NEON, plans are in development for a new minor league baseball park in Southern Nevada, and large corporate facilities continue to set the stage for innovation and development in Northern Nevada. It is an exciting time in Nevada, and the Board looks forward to continue its work on behalf of the public and industry it serves.

Margi A. Stein



*Thank you for your interest in becoming a
Nevada Licensed Contractor!*



Before You Submit Your Application, Stop by Our **FREE**
Business Assistance Program

Receive Information On:

Exam Endorsement Agreements

Financial Documents (credit reports)

Secretary of State Registration Requirements & MORE!

Background Disclosures

References & Resumes

Henderson

4th Friday Every Month, 9 to 11 a.m. *

2310 Corporate Circle, Suite 200

Contact: Lisa Bedsole (702) 486-1100, Ext. 1120

lbedsole@nscb.state.nv.us

Reno

3rd Friday Every Month, 9 to 11 a.m. *

5390 Kietzke Lane, Suite 102

Contact Barbara Miller, 775-688-1141

bamiller@nscb.state.nv.us

* Dates and times are subject to change. There are no meetings in December.

NOTE: The Nevada State Contractors Board is not affiliated with any contractor licensing schools or similar organizations that assist with studying for various licensing exams.

Board disciplines licensees

The Nevada State Contractors Board disciplined licensed contractors for violations of Nevada Revised Statutes Chapter 624 during its January, February and March 2018 hearings.

Harry P. Falco, owner, dba Brick Art Masonry, license number 41619 (masonry), based out of Las Vegas, Nev., was found in violation for failure to comply with the terms of a contract, failure to comply with a notice to correct, abandoning a construction project, failure to notify the Board of a change in address or personnel and failure to establish financial responsibility. Licensee was fined \$1,250 and assessed investigative costs.

Southerland Construction Development, Inc., license numbers 54023 (residential and small commercial) and 54147 (painting and decorating), based out of Las Vegas, Nev., was found in violation for aiding or abetting an unlicensed person, and allowing a construction business to be operated by an unlicensed person. Licensee was fined \$5,000 and assessed investigative costs.

C.R. Homes, Inc., dba C. R. Homes, Inc., license number 42269A (residential and small commercial) and **C.R. Homes, Inc., dba Plumbco**, license number 49232 (plumbing), based out of Pahrump, Nev., were found in violation for failure to pay for materials or services, failure to respond to a written request from the Board, failure to keep in force a bond or cash deposit and failure to establish financial responsibility. The licenses were revoked. Licensees were fined \$2,500 and assessed investigative costs.

Sunset Oasis Landscaping, LLC, license numbers 80570 (landscaping), 80646 (masonry) and 81714 (commercial and residential pools), based out of Henderson, Nev., was found in violation for failure to pay for materials or

services, failure to comply with the terms of a contract, failure to obtain a lien release, diversion of funds, failure to provide subcontractor information, contracting in excess of the monetary limit and failure to provide proof of industrial insurance. Licensee was fined \$5,100 and assessed investigative costs.

Panda Products, LLC, dba Republic West Home, license numbers 79384 (glass and glazing) and 80605 (painting), based out of Scottsdale, Ariz., was found in violation for disregard of the state's industrial insurance laws, failure to establish financial responsibility, failure to keep in force a bond or cash deposit, failure to comply with a notice to correct, contracting beyond the scope of the license, substandard workmanship, failure to comply with a written citation and failure to cooperate in an investigation. The licenses were revoked. Licensee was fined \$7,000 and assessed investigative costs.

Air Done Right, Inc., license number 62716 (refrigeration and air conditioning), based out of Las Vegas, Nev., was found in violation for failure to establish good character. Licensee was fined \$2,000 and assessed investigative costs.

U.S. Landscape, Inc., license number 48201 (landscaping), based out of Las Vegas, Nev., was found in violation for failure to pay for materials or services, failure to respond to a written request from the Board and failure to establish financial responsibility. The license was revoked. Licensee was fined \$2,500 and assessed investigative costs.

Hard Surfaces, Inc., license numbers 78546 (tiling), 78545 (terrazzo and marble installation), 78544 (floor finishing), and 78543 (painting and decorating) and **Hard Surfaces, Inc., dba Hardwire Electric**, license number 78873 (electrical), based out of Henderson,

See DISCIPLINE, page 11

DISCIPLINE from page 10

Nev., were found in violation for abandoning a construction project, failure to comply with the terms of a contract, failure to establish financial responsibility, failure to comply with a notice to correct, failure to include Residential Recovery Fund information in a contract, bidding in excess of the license limit, substandard workmanship, and failure to comply with a request for records or information. The licenses were revoked. Licensees were fined \$5,500 and assessed investigative costs.

Ralph Richard Pane, dba Thermal Services, license number 56799 (refrigeration and air conditioning), based out of Las Vegas, Nev., was found in violation for aiding or abetting an unlicensed person, allowing the license to be used by an unlicensed person, acting as a partner or associate of an unlicensed person, disregard of the state's industrial insurance laws and failure to include the license number and monetary limit on a bid or contract. Licensee was fined \$1,600 and assessed investigative costs.

Sons of Construction, LLC, license number 76945 (general building), based out of Las Vegas, Nev., was found in violation for failure to pay for materials or services, failure to respond to a written request from the Board and failure to establish financial responsibility. The license was revoked. Licensee was fined \$2,000 and assessed investigative costs.

R.L.R., LLC, license number 80900 (roofing), based out of Las Vegas, Nev., was revoked after the company was found in violation for failure to prosecute a construction project or operation thereby causing material injury to another, failure to respond to and comply with a written request from the Board, misuse of a license, failure to include the monetary limit or license number on a contract or proposal, committing a fraudulent or deceitful act, willful disregard of the laws of the state regarding industrial insurance, and failure to establish financial responsibility. Li-

ensee was fined \$5,250 and assessed investigative costs.

Gary Cook Construction, license number 78714 (residential and small commercial), based out of Truckee, Calif., was found in violation for substandard workmanship, failure to comply with a notice to correct, entering into a contract with an unlicensed person and failure to establish financial responsibility. The license was revoked. Licensee was fined \$4,000 and assessed investigative costs.

Witcco, LLC, license number 79682 (general building), based out of Pahrump, Nev., was found in violation for failure to comply with a written request by the Board, willful disregard of the state's industrial insurance laws, and failure to establish financial responsibility. Licensee was fined \$1,750 and assessed investigative costs.

T & M Electrical, Inc., dba Two Master Electricians, license number 70562 (electrical), based out of Henderson, Nev., was revoked after the company was found in violation for failure to pay for materials or services rendered, committing a fraudulent or deceitful act, failure to respond to and comply with a written request from the Board, and failure to establish financial responsibility. Licensee was fined \$3,000 and assessed investigative costs.

Ray Iron Welding, LLC, license number 80342 (ornamental metal), based out of North Las Vegas, Nev., was revoked after the company was found in violation for substandard workmanship, failure to take appropriate corrective action, willful disregard of the state's building and industrial insurance laws, failure to include Residential Recovery Fund information in a contract or proposal, failure to comply with a written request from the Board, advertising beyond the scope of the license, and failure to establish financial responsibility. Licensee was fined \$4,850 and assessed investigative costs.

Continued Education & Training

Technology has changed the way different industries operate. It has even changed the construction industry. In order to keep up with changing technology and information, it has become a necessity to continually seek training and education. If you are interested in furthering your education and training your employees, please click on links to various OSHA safety, construction and computer courses. Links will direct you to various educational institutions located in Northern and Southern Nevada. Contact information will be listed, so please direct any questions regarding the courses to the educational institutions.

Southern Nevada

College of Southern Nevada

CSN Course Schedule (.pdf)

**Please Note: The CSN Course Schedule link is a PDF document. The following pages and categories are listed for your convenience. Note, too, that some courses may require prerequisites.*

Air Conditioning Technology - pg. 5

Computer Office Technology - pg. 31

Building Information Modeling - pg. 7

Fire Protection - pg. 62

Building Codes, pg. 7, pg. 16

Geographic Information Systems - pg. 65

Construction Technology - pg. 20

Mechanical Technology, pg. 85

Computer Aided Drafting/Design - pg. 22

Sustainable Construction - pg. 110

Construction Management - pg. 31

General Inquiries Contact: (702) 650-2276

OSHA Safety Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/6pa9vyx>

Computer Courses

<http://tinyurl.com/6twzcu>

Computer Basics

<http://tinyurl.com/6wubnmm>

Contact:

OSHAOTIEC@csn.edu or
1 (877) 651-OSHA

Contact:

DWED@csn.edu
(702) 651-4747

Contact:

DWED@csn.edu
(702) 651-4747

Northern Nevada

Truckee Meadows Community College

Safety and Training Courses: <http://tinyurl.com/7m226hq>
contact: salquist@tmcc.edu or (775) 857-4958

Computer Courses: <http://tinyurl.com/7jdvmmr>
Contact: wdce@tmcc.edu or (775) 829-9010

TMCC Course Schedule

***Please Note:** This link is a PDF document. The following pages, categories and phone numbers are listed for your convenience. Some courses may require prerequisites. For information, call **(775) 673-7000**.

Air Conditioning Courses - pg. D-191

Architecture - pg. D-196

Building Inspection - pg. D-205

CADD - pg. D-209

Computer & Office Technology - pg. D-211

Construction - pg. D-215

Electrical Technology - pg. D-234



Great Basin College

Course catalog

General Inquiries Contact (775) 738-8493

Great Basin College offers several courses of interest to Nevada's contractors:

Computer Aided Drafting & Design

Electrical Theory

Industrial Millwright Technology

Geographic Information Systems

Computer Office Technology

Welding

Western Nevada College

Course Schedule: <http://www.wnc.edu/academics/catalog/all/>

Courses of interest to contractors include:

Air Conditioning

Applied Industrial Technology

Building Codes and Inspections

Computer Aided Drafting Design

Construction Management and Trade Courses

Geographic Information Systems

Computer Applications/Internet Courses

Photovoltaic and Alternative Energy Courses

Contact: info_desk@wnc.edu or (775) 445-3000

