Huffman High School’s Academy of Architecture and Construction students participated in an excellent job shadowing partnership with The Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham October 8th and 9th. Huffman sent a total of 16 students from the 1st Cohort of its Architecture and Construction Academy. Those students were mentored by experts in their field at the Birmingham Water Works. The chosen sites for Huffman were Distribution, System Development, Revenue Water, Mapping & Records, and Electrical & Mechanical. The students had a wonderful time, and they saw first hand how much goes into making sure that Alabama’s water is the best in the nation. We were extremely proud of our academy students, and it is our hope to make this a lasting partnership of more job shadowing placements and possible internships for our students with The Water Works Board of the City of Birmingham.

Sean Jones, District Officer for Alabama’s Skills USA Organization, was a presenter at the 2013 Joint Leadership Development Conference (JLDC). Sean came onto the floor with a thud as he pumped up the crowd with gymnastic style flips. Sean and his teammates separated the audience into groups. Each group had to come up with a name, a chant, and reasons to get involved in Skills USA. Huffman High School and all of the Academy students want to thank Sean for representing us so well.
Representatives from Lawson State Community College visited Mr. F. A. Brown’s classes last month to have an informal talk with students about life after high school. Students listened as Mr. Kevin Hitchcock and Mr. Joseph Hollins gave information about admission procedures, Lawson’s Construction program, dual enrollment classes, and financial aid. The students were attentive and asked interesting questions. For more information about Lawson State Community College, please go to www.lawsonstate.edu.

HUFFMAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT CHRISTOPHER JOHNSON WINS GO BUILD ALABAMA’S FUTURE SKILLED WORKERS OF AMERICA AWARD FOR OCTOBER

Montgomery, Ala. – October 16, 2013 – Go Build Alabama, an initiative of the Alabama Construction Recruitment Institute (ACRI), awarded Christopher Johnson with the Go Build Alabama Future Skilled Workers of America (FSWA) Award for the month of October.

The FSWA Award, which honors one high school junior or senior each month, was created to recognize and encourage high school students who plan to pursue careers in the construction industry. Each student that wins the award is eligible to receive a $1,000 scholarship to a training facility in Alabama if the student chooses to continue his or her education in construction. The scholarship is made possible by ACRI and the Big Dog Poker Run, an employee motorcycle ride sponsored by CraneWorks and Garrison Steel held each spring. All money collected in the registration fee for riders goes to the Go Build Alabama scholarship fund for the FSWA Award.

Johnson is a senior at Huffman High School where he studies building/construction technology. Christopher is an active member of SkillsUSA. He also enjoys football and baseball. “I first became interested in construction because I wanted to learn how structures around me were built,” Johnson said. “I think construction would be a very fun career.”

Teachers, principals and other school personnel are encouraged to nominate students for the Go Build Alabama Future Skilled Workers of America Award. To be eligible, students must be high school juniors or seniors who have demonstrated interest in construction careers. They must also be enrolled in or have been enrolled in technical courses related to the skilled labor industry, and have plans to continue their education in the construction industry upon graduating from high school. Visit www.gobuildalabama.com to download a nomination form.

ACRI launched the Go Build campaign in August of 2010 in effort to prepare for the anticipated shortage as older tradesmen leave the workforce. One third of all skilled tradesmen in the construction industry are over the age of 50. With their retirement on the horizon, training programs are not producing enough young workers to replace those exiting the industry. The Go Build Alabama campaign aims to recruit the next generation of skilled construction trade workers.

LAWSON STATE DISCUSSES COLLEGE OPTIONS WITH ACADEMY STUDENTS

HUFFMAN HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMY OF ARCHITECTURE AND CONSTRUCTION
A National Technical Honor Society (NTHS) chapter was established at Huffman High School this fall.

Joining NTHS is an important career investment, respected by business, industry, and education that will add value and prestige to your professional portfolio. Student candidates must meet national and local membership standards and should be persons who have demonstrated scholastic achievement, skill development, leadership, honesty, responsibility, and good character. Membership in a career/technical student organization (CTSO) is important to leadership development and career preparation and therefore, strongly encouraged. The student membership fee is a one-time $25 fee. All Skills USA members who meet the qualifications are eligible to apply. Please see Mr. F. A. Brown or Mrs. Humphrey for an application.

On October 2nd, the Huffman High School Skills USA chapter held its very first election of officers within the Building Construction Technology Academy. All members were allowed to run for the following positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Treasurer, Reporter, Sergeant-at-Arms, and Chaplain. These positions were filled in the exact hour of the schools scheduled Academic Opportunity period. Although there were many candidates, only one could be chosen for each position. Each candidate had to read or briefly state why they should be elected for the position.

After an hour of rallying, all officers were elected: Christopher Johnson, President; Jeremy Webb, Vice President; Marcus Bradford, Secretary; Devin Samuels, Parliamentarian; Jamoeria Braggs, Treasurer; Brandon Perry, Reporter; Willie Green, Sergeant-at-Arms; Gerald Carey, Chaplain.

During the 2013 – 2014 school year, Huffman High School’s Academy of Architecture and Construction’s F. A. Brown will serve as a Career Technical Education mentor to teachers pursuing Specialty Area teacher certification. Please congratulate him on this accomplishment.
“I wanted to get our kids live work,” he said. “When you work in a shop, the situation is always perfect; you don’t deal with real-life issues and problems so I wanted them to know what it was like in a real-life situation.”

He began working with Habitat for Humanity two years ago, before Birmingham’s high schools even offered career academies. Back then, construction classes fell under the old career technical education and consisted of a class or two for students. Now, students enter a career academy as a sophomore and stay in it until they graduate. Career academies are organized around such occupational themes as health, business and computer technology. Six of the city’s seven high schools offer different academies.

Students in Brown’s classes learn how to frame houses, lay shingles, put up drywall, install siding, and they also learn how to wire a house and the basics of plumbing, among other things.

Still, in the shop, students mainly can only build dog houses, storage sheds and play houses, Brown said, so building a single family home is a real treat. “The things they can learn here they’re not able to learn in a shop,” Brown said. “Some stuff you just can’t simulate. Also, they can put this on their resume and it looks good. And students are required to perform community service to graduate and this covers everything.”

Ricky Ferris, site supervisor for Habitat for Humanity, said he works with high schools all the time and Huffman’s class is by far the most advanced he’s seen.

“These kids know the terminology and lingo. They know what they’re doing,” he said. “I wouldn’t be as far along as I am now if it was anybody else.”

Sixteen students were volunteering at the house today. “In our case, we’re a volunteer-based organization and this is great because they get to come out here in the field and experience what they’ve been reading about in class and actually apply it,” Ferris said. “Volunteering is what we depend on. It’s our life blood.”