



2025-2026 **IMPACT REPORT**

West Michigan Construction Institute

A Note from Our Board Chair

Construction has always been about building what comes next. Every project begins with a vision, is brought to life by people working together, and creates something that serves communities for generations. I believe the same is true of WMCI.

Every day, our students discover what is possible when they step beyond the classroom and into real experiences. They learn from instructors who generously share their knowledge, employers who open their jobsites, and an industry that is committed to investing in the next generation. Those experiences do more than teach a trade. They build confidence, purpose, and the foundation for meaningful careers.

This past year, we have continued to see the impact of that mission. More students are beginning rewarding careers. More employers are partnering with WMCI. More donors, volunteers, and advocates are investing in our students because they understand that a stronger construction industry begins with stronger people.

To everyone who has been part of that journey, thank you. Your time, generosity, and commitment are changing lives and strengthening our industry in ways that will be felt for generations.

As we look ahead, we are doubling down on our mission while expanding our vision for what WMCI can become. We are committed to building more than a training institution. We are building a place where people master their craft, embrace emerging technologies, grow as leaders, and discover opportunities they never imagined. We aspire to become the premier destination for construction education, workforce development, innovation, and leadership, helping shape the future of an industry that builds the world around us.

Every generation has the responsibility to leave the next one stronger than it found it. That is the opportunity before us today, and it will require all of us. Instructors willing to teach. Employers willing to mentor and hire. Industry leaders willing to invest in the next generation. Donors and volunteers willing to give their time, resources, and encouragement.

Together, we can do far more than fill workforce needs. We can inspire future builders, innovators, and leaders who will elevate our industry and strengthen our communities for decades to come.

Thank you for believing in WMCI and for joining us in building that future together.

Sincerely,

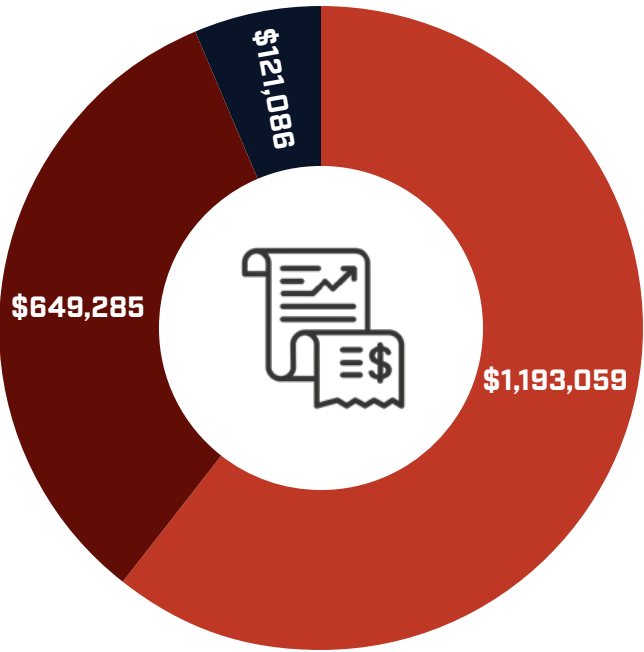
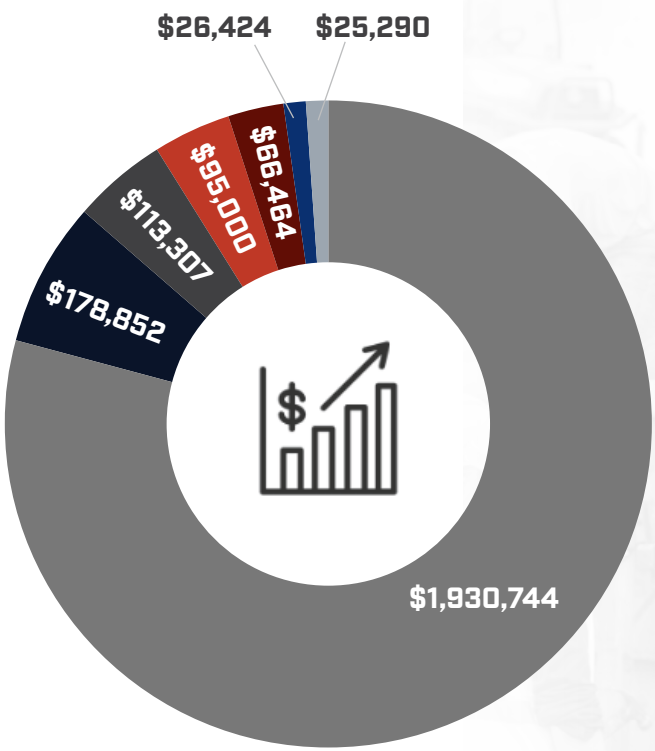
Josh Lester, President, CS Erickson
Chairman of the Board, 2025-2026
West Michigan Construction Institute



Financials

REVENUE

- Tuition & Program Revenue **\$1,930,744**
- Special/Fundraising Events **\$178,852**
- Corporate Donations **\$113,307**
- Corporate Partners **\$95,000**
- Other Income **\$66,464**
- Individual Donations **\$26,424**
- Scholarship Donations **\$25,290**



EXPENSES

- Management & Operations **\$1,193,059**
- Programming **\$649,285**
- Special/Fundraising Events **\$121,086**

2025-2026 Corporate Partners

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| ABC Western Michigan | Dan Vos Construction | Rockford Construction |
| Architectural Metals Inc. | DHE Plumbing and Mechanical | Soils and Structures |
| Bazen Electric | EV Construction | Town & Country |
| Bouma Corporation | Fence Consultants of West Michigan | Veneklasen Construction |
| Brigade Fire Protection | Feyen Zylstra | Vos Glass |
| Buist | HighPoint Electric | Whiting-Turner |
| Buist Sheet Metal | Lee Industrial Contracting | Wolverine Construction |
| Burgess Concrete | Orion Construction | Zeeland/Standard Lumber |
| CS Erickson | Pioneer Construction | |

Our Students

High School CTE Program

WMCI’s high school program helps students discover meaningful career pathways while earning high school credit and industry credentials. Through hands-on carpentry and electrical training, students build confidence, technical skills, and a clearer vision for their future. Many seniors also participate in paid work-based learning industry internships, gaining valuable workplace experience before graduation. Together, these opportunities create a seamless pathway into the skilled trades and help meet the growing workforce needs of West Michigan.

12

Field trips & job sites visited by students.

94%

Completion rate for students on labs & tests.

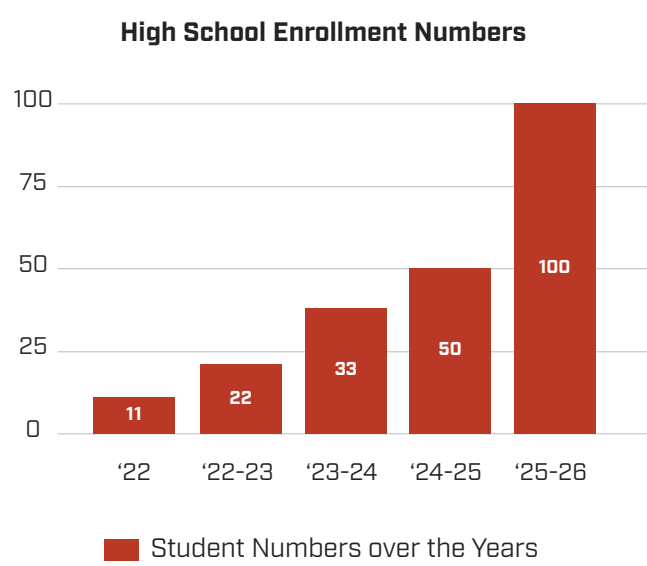
34

2025-2026 graduates were hired by industry employers.

41

Sending schools.

100 Students Enrolled for 2026-2027



Work-Based Learning Students Placed for 2025-2026

- Bazen Electric - 1
- Buist Electric - 1
- Butler Electric - 1
- EES - 1
- Erhardt Construction - 1
- EV Construction - 3
- Fabcon - 1
- HighPoint Electric - 1
- Hillard Electric - 2
- Integrated Exteriors - 1
- Ritsema Associates - 1
- Sparky’s Electric LLC - 1
- Vos Glass - 1

To learn more about our high school program and the Kent ISD partnership, head to our website at wmcinstitute.com/high-school-construction-training-program

Our Students

Adult Craft Training

Every year, hundreds of construction professionals choose WMCI to invest in themselves, strengthen their skills, and build better futures for their communities. Through hands-on training, industry-led instruction, and nationally recognized NCCER and Mike Holt curriculum, students gain the knowledge and confidence needed to advance in their construction careers. This year, WMCI launched its Electrical Apprenticeship Program welcoming over 200 apprentices! Each student who completes training helps meet the growing workforce needs of West Michigan’s construction industry.

149

NCCER credentials earned in 2025-2026.

56

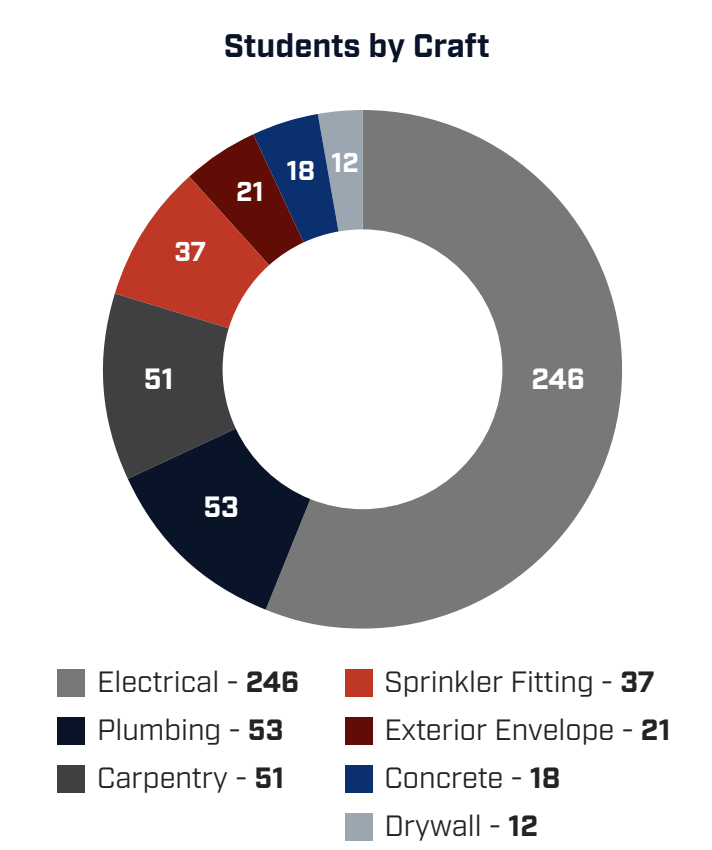
New-to-the-industry students joined our student body in fall 2025.

17

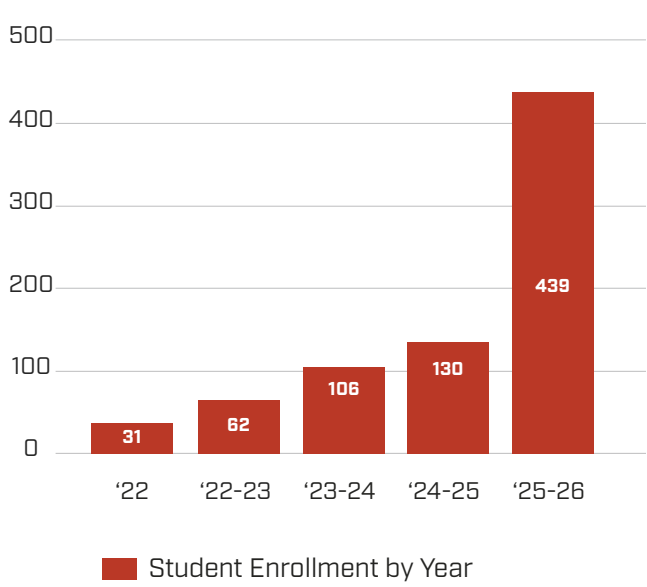
New instructors added to the WMCI instructional team from the industry.

11

Female students joined our student body in fall 2025.



456 Students Enrolled for 2026-2027



To check out the course catalog for our adult craft programs, head to our website at wmcinstitute.com

Instructor of the Year: Andrew Bratt



Company: DHE Plumbing and Mechanical
WMCI Course: Plumbing 1 Instructor

“What I like most about Andrew as a WMCI instructor is his priority of meeting the students where they’re at. My favorite quote from a student is ‘he’s a pretty chill fella.’ Andrew is going to challenge you to be a better apprentice and he’s going to help you fall in love with the trade, like any good coach would do.”
-WMCI VP of Education, Tyler Huizenga

Graduate of the Year: Richard Luckey



Company: Total Fire Protection
WMCI Course: Sprinkler Fitting 4 2026 Graduate

“Rich was always ready to participate in class. Even on days that he showed up tired or with his mind on other things, he still found a way to be involved with the discussion and contribute to the class. Rich had a wealth of knowledge from working in the field that he could apply to the topic at hand, and was willing to share that knowledge and any tips and tricks he had acquired with those around him.”
-WMCI Sprinkler Fitting 4 instructor, Nick Burgess

Students of the Year: High School



2025-2026 Leadership Award - Jane M. (Electrical Student)

Jane won the 2025-2026 Leadership Award for exceptional leadership qualities, inspiring others, and driving positive change. She brought a positive attitude and willingness to help others including teaching students how to tie every knot in the rigging book. She served as a volunteer for the WMCI Middle School Summer Camp and the WMCI CTE Advisory Committee. She will be working a work-based learning internship with Buist Electric during her senior year with WMCI.



2025-2026 Carpenter of the Year - Kaden H.

Kaden won the 2025-2026 Carpenter of the Year Award for dedication, skill development, and academic excellence in the field of carpentry. He has impressed the team at Ritsema where he is working a work-based learning internship during his senior year with WMCI, installing ceiling grid and framing at a high level for a person just starting in the trade.



2025-2026 Electrician of the Year - Keegan K.

Keegan won the 2025-2026 Electrician of the Year Award for dedication, skill development, and academic excellence in the field. He was consistently on time, committed to excellence, and setting the standard for our electrical program. He is working a work-based learning internship at HighPoint Electric during his senior year with WMCI.

ABC Craft Competition

The West-Michigan local annual ABC Craft Competition, presented in partnership with the West Michigan Construction Institute, highlights the achievements of apprentices who represent the future of commercial construction trades.

The competition includes a written exam assessing industry knowledge followed by a hands-on assessment under tight time constraints. Competitors are judged by members of construction firms on safety, layout, compliance, appearance, and quality of workmanship.

Winners from the local ABC Craft Competition went on to compete at the ABC National Craft Competition in Salt Lake City, Utah in March 2026.



WMCI Student Wins Gold at Nationals

We’re proud to share a win for WMCI! Congratulations to Joe Montney from Total Fire Protection, Inc. on winning the gold in Sprinkler Fitting at the ABC National Craft Competition in Salt Lake City!

We also want to recognize all the WMCI students who competed on the national stage. Representing our program at this level is an accomplishment in itself, and we’re incredibly proud of each of them:

Metal Framing & Drywall: Josh B., Halyard
Plumbing: Justin W., DHE Plumbing & Mechanical

The 2026-2027 ABC Craft Competition will be held January 15, 2027 at WMCI.

Investing in the Future of the Trades

This year, WMCI celebrated two transformational investments in student success. EV Construction established the Tony Roussey Building Futures Scholarship Endowment with a \$100,000 gift honoring Tony’s enduring legacy and commitment to the construction industry. The Trading Up Scholarship Fund was also launched through a \$100,000 endowed commitment, along with an additional \$100,000 to be distributed over the next five years in support of student scholarships.

These exceptional gifts ensure that financial barriers never stand in the way of students pursuing careers in the skilled trades, while creating lasting legacies for industry leaders who have shaped our West Michigan construction community.

To contribute to an existing scholarship fund, or to explore creating a named scholarship endowment honoring a retiring construction professional, please contact Jen Schottke at jschottke@wmcinstitute.com.

Featured Events



2026 WMCI Construction Rally Raises \$40,000

WMCI proudly celebrated the 10th Anniversary Construction Rally in March 2026, bringing together construction professionals from across West Michigan for an evening of friendly competition, networking, and industry celebration. The event honored the strength of our construction community while raising critical funds to support the development of the next generation of skilled trades professionals.

A special thank you to Lee Industrial Contracting for hosting this milestone event and to EV Construction for serving as our Title Sponsor.



High School Graduation

WMCI proudly celebrated the accomplishments of our high school students in May during the 2026 End-of-Year Celebration, recognizing a year of hard work, hands-on learning, and career readiness. Surrounded by family, instructors, employer partners, and supporters, students were honored for earning credentials, gaining real-world experience, and taking important steps toward successful careers in the construction industry. Thank you to LMCU for underwriting this End-of-Year Celebration.

WMCI Launches The Field Trip

In May 2026, WMCI proudly hosted its inaugural The Field Trip, a first-of-its-kind benefit that brought together industry leaders, partners, and community supporters for an unforgettable evening celebrating the future of the skilled trades. Held at the Acrisure Amphitheater, the event combined networking, behind the scenes looks, and storytelling to showcase the impact of WMCI while raising funds to support student scholarships, hands-on training, and workforce development initiatives.

The overwhelming support from our Title Sponsors, Pioneer Construction and Barton Malow, event sponsors, donors, volunteers, and attendees made this inaugural event an incredible success, helping raise nearly \$40,000 to invest in the next generation of construction professionals. The Field Trip established a strong foundation for what we look forward to becoming a signature annual tradition in support of WMCI’s mission.



Adult Craft Graduation

In June 2026, WMCI celebrated the achievements of adult craft professionals who completed training and advanced their skills through our Adult Skilled Trades programs. The Adult Craft Graduation recognized the dedication of these individuals and the employer partners who invest in workforce development, highlighting the lifelong learning and professional growth that strengthen our industry.



WMCI Middle School Summer Camp

WMCI welcomed 20 middle school students from across West Michigan for its annual two-day Summer Camp, introducing them to the exciting world of commercial construction through engaging, hands-on activities led by industry professionals. From carpentry and concrete to electrical and heavy equipment, campers explored a variety of skilled trades while discovering the rewarding career opportunities available in the construction industry. A huge thank you to Rockford Construction for sponsoring this event.

Partnership Events

Throughout the year, WMCI was honored to be the beneficiary of several partner-hosted fundraising events that brought our community together in support of skilled trades education. These generous organizations donated their time, resources, and event proceeds to help advance our mission of preparing the next generation of construction professionals. We are incredibly grateful for their partnership and investment in our students, our industry, and the future of West Michigan. To learn more about benefitting WMCI through your event, contact Maddie at meaton@wmcinstitute.com.

- Construction Simplified 10-year Anniversary at Bamboo
- Builders Exchange of Michigan Clay Shoot
- ABC Western Michigan Young Professionals Golf Outing
- ABC Western Michigan Angler Classic
- IIBEC West Michigan Chapter Clay Shoot



Investing in the Next Generation: Kyle's Commitment to Skilled Trades Education

For Kyle Siegert, supporting the West Michigan Construction Institute is personal. As Director of Construction Management at First Companies, Kyle has seen firsthand the opportunities that a career in construction can provide. He has also experienced the impact that generosity can have on a person's life.

Kyle's commitment to giving back is rooted in his own educational experience. Near the end of his undergraduate studies, he had exhausted realistic loan options and faced the possibility of delaying graduation. Two university leaders stepped in with discretionary financial support that helped bridge the gap in his tuition and allowed him to graduate.



Kyle Siegert and his family at his college graduation

"I remember feeling deeply grateful and honestly undeserving of that kind of generosity," Kyle said. "It relieved not only a major financial burden, but also a significant mental weight I was carrying."

That experience stayed with him. More recently, his company challenged its team to "live generously" with the resources they have, a philosophy that reinforced for Kyle that generosity doesn't have to wait for the perfect time or a certain financial milestone.

"There are many incredible supporters of WMCI who are able to give at a very high level, and we are extremely grateful for those people," he said. "I hope to be able to do the same someday, but I've come to appreciate that contributing at any level matters."

Kyle experienced that impact when he made a gift to WMCI last year. As a new semester was beginning, he found himself remembering the financial stress he experienced as a student. He reached out to WMCI President Jen Schottke, hoping his contribution could make a difference for a student.

The WMCI team connected his gift with a student who needed tools for their first construction job.

"It was an awesome match, to be able to provide in such a tangible way, to help someone who was eager to put their gifts and talents to work," Kyle said.

For Kyle, that is what makes investing in WMCI so meaningful. It's about creating pathways for students to discover their talents, build fulfilling careers and contribute to the future of West Michigan.

Over the years, Kyle has had opportunities to interact with students touring jobsites and exploring careers in construction. Those experiences stayed with him and ultimately inspired him to support WMCI.

"I'm passionate about helping people find their passion in a career, partly because I remember how overwhelming it felt trying to figure that out for myself," Kyle shared. "Seeing WMCI advance those same opportunities for the next generation is what first drew me to support the organization."

"Our industry here in West Michigan continues to grow, and we continue to see its generational impact," Kyle said. "This education doesn't just prepare the next generation with the skills they need, it also builds excitement around how important these roles are to our industry and our region."

His challenge to others is simple: don't put off generosity. "It's something you can practice right now, in whatever way makes sense for you," Kyle said. "Doing so will be a blessing for you and the community around you."

Make a tax-deductible donation today!

To join us in supporting our students, visit wmcinstitute.com/support/ for safe and secure online giving.

From the Desk of the WMCI President

To our partners, supporters, and friends,

What a year.

As I write this letter, I am once again overwhelmed with gratitude for the growth and investment we have experienced at the West Michigan Construction Institute. Your generosity, belief, and continued commitment have equipped us to serve our students and our construction community in extraordinary ways. Thank you from the depths of my heart for caring about our work the way you do.

Last year, I shared that we would be launching WMCI's electrical apprenticeship program — *and launch it we did!* We welcomed more than 220 new electrical apprentices more than doubling our adult student enrollment. I want to personally thank the electrical contractors who said yes to WMCI: Bazen Electric, Buist, CS Erickson, FZ, HighPoint Electric, Pylman Power, Swanson Electric, Town & Country Group, Van Haren Electric, and Windemuller. I am also grateful to the individuals who walked alongside us through our electrical workgroup: Kim Kohlhoff (Buist), Farid Irish (Van Haren Electric), Kevin Lutz (FZ), Tim Moody (Windemuller), Peter Reese (HighPoint Electric), and Jim Van Beek (Bazen Electric). Their real-time feedback helped ensure we launched with quality, relevance, and a commitment to continuous improvement.



Our donor community also showed up in incredible ways. This year, two scholarship endowments were launched thanks to EV Construction and a private donor. Together, these endowments will allow us to offer more than \$25,000 in scholarships each year, a significant increase from the approximately \$5,000 we had previously been able to award. These gifts will remove barriers, open doors, and change lives for students ready to work hard and build their future.

And, as if that were not enough, we also received the donation of 843 Century Ave, the property directly south of WMCI. This gift allows us to begin visioning our Phase III expansion, including much-needed lab space and new ways to serve our industry.

Each year, I think, "What a year." And each year, because of you, WMCI continues to grow into what our students and industry need next.

With deep gratitude,

Jen Schottke

President
West Michigan Construction Institute



West Michigan Construction Institute

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(616) 208-9624 | wmcinstitute.com

2026-2027 Courses Now Available!

Sign up for classes at wmcinstitute.com

Thank you to all our supporters!

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