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## **ABC Chairman's Message: New training center will enhance Gould Construction Institute programs**

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Joe Camilo

All of us know that the biggest asset any contractor can have is a high-quality, well-trained workforce. To make that a reality for more ABC Massachusetts members, the Gould Construction Institute (GCI) has broken ground on a new bricks and mortar facility that will enhance its curriculum with hands-on learning.

The groundbreaking took place on May 2nd at the Billerica building owned by long-time member Medford Wellington Service Company, Inc., with a ceremony that included a gold sledgehammer and shovel symbolizing the groundbreaking event and was attended by staff from Gould, ABC, Medford Wellington and project GC Windover Construction.

Windover will be working with multiple ABC member contractors on the 12-week project to build six classrooms with state-of-the-art shop and equipment space for hands-on practical education. The facility is scheduled to be complete in time for the start of the school year in September.

Gould's current model of renting space at night in existing schools has increasing limitations, especially as more schools host their own after-dark programs. While GCI will continue to offer classes in various locations around Massachusetts, the new facility provides more flexibility to do things like expand daytime training programs. The school started its first daytime electrical program last year. Based on its success, GCI plans to expand daytime offerings in the new facility.

Other benefits include the ability to offer apprenticeship training year-round, including a summer semester to allow students an opportunity to fast track their educational hours.

The facility will also allow Gould and ABC MA to offer workforce programs that will bring more people into the trades, such as pre-apprenticeship cohorts, youth summer camps and career fairs. From a public relations perspective, it will increase brand awareness, as the space will have GCI/ABC signage and provide a location to showcase our training programs to state and local officials.

We will continue to share updates and photos on the facility's progress, as well as opportunities for you to learn how you can support our new educational center with a variety of sponsorship and contribution opportunities.

Joe Camilo is the chairman of Associated Builders and Contractors Inc.-Mass. Chapter and is the vice president/general manager at Tocco Building Systems, Billerica, Mass.

New England Real Estate Journal - 17 Accord Park Drive #207, Norwell MA 02061 - (781) 878-4540