



WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT®

501 (c)(3) Nonprofit

The Bugle: Vol 8, Issue 4, April 2026

www.WarriorVillageProject.com

PROGRESS REPORT

The [Construction Industry Education Foundation](#) (CIEF) held its 41st annual [Design Build Competition®](#) this year, and its 5th Competition in Southern California. The Competition promotes career awareness of the built environment among high school students through hands-on experience in the construction process. It provides a first-hand look at future opportunities in the industry. As it recognizes student ingenuity and achievement, the Competition allows the construction industry to support, partner with, and mentor schools, students, and Career Technical Education programs. During the four-month program, each participating team is challenged to design, plan, and construct a small structure that meets a set of criteria established under the advisement of industry professionals.

This year's Southern California Design Build Competition culminated in two days of construction activity at [Golden West College](#) in Huntington Beach on April 9 - 10. This year 39 schools competed in Huntington Beach, including 6 high school teams from San Diego County: [IDEA Center High School](#) (Santee and El Cajon); [Poway High School](#); [Romana High School](#); [Rancho Buena Vista High School](#) (Vista); [San Diego High School](#); and [San Marcos High School](#). This was Ramona's first year in the competition.

The teams were judged by industry professionals on the completion of design, construction, code compliance, and safety. CIEF provided all construction materials listed in the Instructor Guide for the Competition. Thirteen schools that wanted to add materials to customize their build were entered into the Open Competition. Recent years have brought a focus on building with a purpose; teams donate their structures to local nonprofits or sell them to fund a worthwhile cause in their community.

On the second day of the Competition, CIEF hosted an Industry Lunch. This networking event brought together professionals from the built environment, along with other community, regional and national sponsors and stakeholders of the Competition, including students, parents, teachers, and counselors. Sponsors awarded scholarships to students for apprenticeships, trade schools, or colleges.



CIEF

Construction Industry Education Foundation

Through sponsorships and grants, teams compete at no cost to any student

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EVENTS

Last Day of School
RBVHS: June 4
SMHS: June 11

VIP PROFILE

Construction Industry Education Foundation Design Build

Six San Diego County high schools took the field in Huntington Beach.

We are very grateful to the amazing team at the [Construction Industry Education Foundation \(CIEF\)](#) for producing another great event for 400 students from across southern California. Our special thanks go out to Jordan Blair, *Chief Executive Officer*; Jessica Miller, *Senior Programs and Events Manager*, and Jason Manion, *Events & Youth Programs* - SoCal.



VIP PROFILE

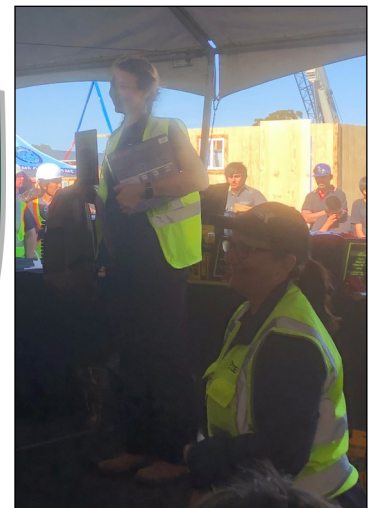
Construction Industry Education Foundation Design Build

San Diego County high school students have made us proud with their performances in the Design Build Competition. Our students comported themselves like future building trades professionals. They exhibited great enthusiasm, a strong work ethic and awesome teamwork skills. They have also earned their share of accolades. In its first year in the Competition, [San Marcos High School](#) won the Rookie Team of the Year Award. This year [Rancho Buena Vista High School](#) took home the Craftsmanship Award.



Rancho Buena Vista High School's Craftsmanship Award (Shed) winning Team.

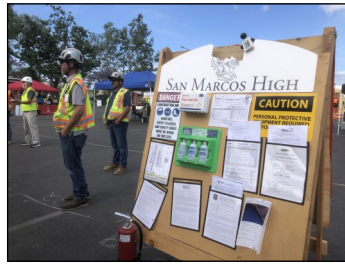
This year, [Poway High School](#) student Grace Diaz won the Safety Manager Award for her performance as the Safety Manager for her Design Build team. She was also awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Construction Industry Education Foundation (CIEF). Grace will be attending [Southern Utah University](#) next fall to study Construction Management in pursuit of a career in Construction Safety Management.



Left Photo: L to R: Joe Ismay, retired Construction Teacher; Joe Islas, current Construction Teacher; Grace Diaz, CIEF Representative; Jeremy Martin, Assistant Director of Preschool and Before and After School Programs.
Right Photo: Grace Diaz accepting her Safety Manager Award.

VIP PROFILE

Construction Industry Education Foundation Design Build



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, SMHS

San Marcos High School: SM #1

The San Marcos Design Build team brought their 'Build' home from Huntington Beach. I am happy to report that it arrived at the San Marcos campus fully intact. This was no small feat since they transported it south on I-405 during heavy rush hour traffic. Their project was one of 6 nominated for the *People's Choice Award*. Click below to register your vote for the San Marcos Team by 11 AM on May 1

- Chapter 1 Trailer
- Chapter 2 Framing
- Chapter 3 Rough Plumbing
- Chapter 4 Rough Electrical
- Chapter 5 Wall Sheathing
Roofing Shear
Moisture Barrier
- Chapter 6 Roofing
- Chapter 7 Windows & Doors
- Chapter 8 Exterior
Exterior Trim
Finish
- Chapter 9 HVAC
Venting
- Chapter 10 Insulation
- Chapter 11 Interior Wall
Ceiling Covering
- Chapter 12 Interior Cabinetry
Installations
Flooring
Fixtures
- Chapter 13 Interior Trim Finish
- Chapter 14 Finish Plumbing
Electrical
Fixtures
- Chapter 15 Finish Hardware
Touch-ups
- Chapter 16 Health & Safety
Final Testing
Certification
Submission



Some students worked to complete the plumbing systems on SM #1 and #2, while others started installing low-voltage [trailer running lights](#) on the exteriors of the houses, as required for transport on roads.



CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, SMHS

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San Marcos High School: SM #2

This month our students completed the final touches of the [Westlake Royal Solutions, Unified Steel Stone Coated Roofing](#) installation on SM #2. They also worked to complete the [Drain-Waste-Vent system](#). They extended the cold water supply line and hot water distribution line for a 20-gallon water heater, which will be installed under the bathroom vanity cabinet. They also installed low-voltage [trailer running lights](#), as required for transport on roads. They are preparing to submit documents for the virtual inspection for Chapters 3 (Rough Plumbing) and 4 (Rough Electrical).



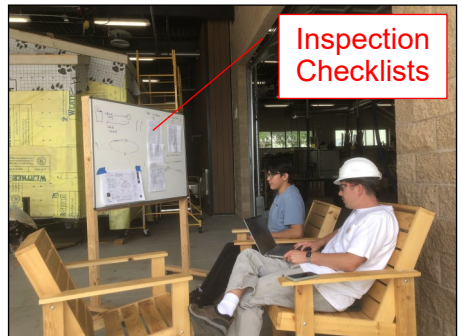
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, RBVHS

Rancho Buena Vista High School: RBV #1

- Chapter 1 Trailer
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Final Testing
Certification
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Our students completed the installation of the house wrap Moisture Barrier as well as the felt paper (aka tar paper or underlayment) on the roof of RBV #1. They started building the Utility Closet on the back of the house, which will contain a 20-gallon water heater.

Rancho Buena Vista has passed its virtual inspections for Chapters 1 (Foundation), 2 (Framing), and 5 (Sheathing) for RBV #1. They are about 70% complete on the work required for the Chapters 3 (Rough Plumbing) and 4 (Rough Electrical) inspections.



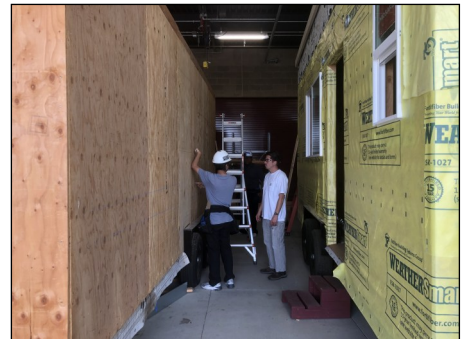
CONSTRUCTION UPDATE, RBVHS

Rancho Buena Vista High School: SP #1

- Chapter 1 Trailer
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Our RBV students continued to install the Wall Sheathing on SP # 1 (aka RBV # 2). They cut out the holes for the three windows, and added [sinker nails](#) to every panel of sheathing (spaced 8 inches on-center (O.C.) along panel edges and 12 inches O.C. in the field).

Chapter 1 (Trailer) has been virtually inspected and approved. The documents for Chapter 2 (Framing) have been submitted for inspection and approval.



PARTNERS

More Young Adults Interested in the Construction Trades, but Challenges Persist



A new study conducted by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) reveals that more young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 are interested in the construction trades but more work needs to be done to educate the public that there are increasing opportunities for rewarding, lucrative careers in the skilled trades.

The new research is similar to a study conducted in 2016. The NAHB survey found that the share of young adults interested in a career in the construction trades doubled from 3% a decade ago to 6% today. The two most important benefits young adults see in a career in the trades are good pay (73%) and the ability to obtain useful skills (65%).

With the nation facing a shortage of roughly 1.2 million housing units, closing the housing deficit will necessarily entail recruiting younger workers willing to start careers in construction trades. NAHB estimates the industry will need 2.2 million new skilled construction workers over the next three years to keep up with demand and account for industry expansion, retirements and departures.

“While this new research shows that more young adults have a positive attitude toward a career in the construction trades, many are still unaware that careers in the building trades offer workers well paid jobs and opportunities for growth in one of the most in-demand industries in the nation,” said NAHB Chairman Bill Owens, a home builder and remodeler from Worthington, Ohio. “High schools need to stress that the skilled trades are a viable alternative to four-year colleges that can pay above median wages and serve as a launching pad for small business development.”

Policymakers at all levels of government can help in this endeavor by supporting funding for building and construction trades education and providing more placement services to job seekers, Owens added. NAHB supports the CONSTRUCTS Act, bipartisan legislation pending in the U.S. House and Senate that will address the severe labor shortage in the construction industry by helping to prepare young adults for fulfilling careers in construction and other essential trades.

The survey further reveals that 30% of young adults undecided about a future career path would likely give the trades a second look if compensation were high enough. Only 18% would have done so a decade ago. This shift points to a measurable improvement in young adults’ attitudes towards the construction trades over the last 10 years, where willingness to enter the field increases with higher levels of compensation.

Half of payroll workers in construction earn more than \$60,320, and the top 25% make at least \$81,510, according to the latest May 2024 Bureau of Labor Statistics Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics and analysis by NAHB. In comparison, the U.S. median annual pay is \$49,500, while the top quartile (the highest paid 25%) makes at least \$78,810.

In a key finding for the home building industry, the NAHB survey found that 52% of undecided adults aged 18 to 25 who in theory would not choose a career in the trades would in fact reconsider that position for the right paycheck. That figure is at least \$90,000 for 32% of this group and \$60,000 to \$80,000 for the other 20%. There are 12 construction occupations whose median annual wages already meet or exceed that threshold.

“If we are to meet the housing needs of a growing population, now, more than ever, providing opportunities for students to learn a craft that will produce well-paying and life-long career opportunities must be a top priority,” said Owens.

View the full study on young adults and the construction trades [here](#).

SPONSORS Design Build Competition

We are grateful to the Sponsors of the [Design Build Competition®](#). We thank two Presenting Sponsors that have also been strong [Sponsors](#) of the Warrior Village Project, [Simpson Strong-Tie](#) and [T.M. Cobb](#), as well as the [California Homebuilding Foundation](#), a Cornerstone Sponsor and a Warrior Village Project Partner. Our 6 San Diego County schools are also grateful to their Team Sponsors: [DPR Construction](#), [Sundt Construction Company](#), [Pacific Rim Mechanical](#), [Teichert Construction](#), [Kaiser Permanente](#), and [Flint Builders](#).



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CALIFORNIA
HOMEBUILDING
FOUNDATION



San Marcos High School
(SMUSD)



Rancho Buena Vista High School
(VUSD)



IDEA Center
High School
(GUHSD)



Poway High School
(PUSD)



Ramona High School
(RUSD)



KAISER
PERMANENTE



San Diego High School
(SDUSD)



DONATE TO THE WARRIOR VILLAGE PROJECT

The Warrior Village Project has joined the San Diego Gives 2026 Campaign. It is easy to donate to the Warrior Village Project through the [San Diego Gives online platform](#). Your donation will go to the Warrior Village Project General Fund to purchase materials to build Moveable Tiny Houses in high school construction classes in San Diego County.

The trailer foundation and building materials and consumables required for one Moveable Tiny House (MTH) cost about \$44,000. The curriculum and the inspection and certification package cost about \$6,000.

The cost of installing an MTH as an Accessory Dwelling Unit would depend on the site. But, it should cost about \$20,000 per house. Hence, we can provide a permanent, fully equipped tiny house for a homeless person for about \$70,000 per unit.

According to the [Turner Center for Housing Innovation at UC Berkeley \(January 2026\)](#): "In 2023, it cost approximately \$630,000 to develop one subsidized housing unit funded with Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) equity in California, nearly 20 percent more than in 2019, after accounting for inflation."

Isn't it time to start building truly affordable housing?



Donate

You're making a donation to **Warrior Village Project, Inc.**

ORGANIZATION
Warrior Village Project, Inc.

One-time donation Monthly donation

\$ Donation amount

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Add a dedication to your donation

Designation
General Fund

Help us build truly affordable housing while training the next generation of home builders.



2026 Campaign

<https://sandiegogives.mightycause.com/donate/Warrior-Village-Project>

We need to raise \$80,000 to purchase materials to complete the four Moveable Tiny Houses we are building at San Marcos High School, San Pasqual High School and Rancho Buena Vista High School.

