

# Building Green the Right Way



BY C. DEANNA LEWIS

As the workforce development arm of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), and cluster leader for the Architecture and Construction career cluster, Home Builders Institute (HBI) has a vested interest in keeping our nation's elementary, middle and high school students excited and knowledgeable about what's new in residential construction. Green is popular and trendy on the minds of many during these times of escalating energy costs and declining

resources. HBI is on board; we have instituted a green office environment complete with a committee—The Green Team.

Green building in residential construction has taken on new meaning and it definitely does not mean a few brush strokes of the green paint. There are familiar jobs with a green twist and new green jobs beginning to surface in every industry. We ask the question, as the job market terminology changes in residential construction, will students know what to look for? Are students considering lot

design, preparation and development, resource efficiency, energy efficiency, indoor environmental quality, operation, maintenance and owner education as areas of interest when thinking of green jobs? Residential construction has a long history of green. Now, it has added green standards to its repertoire.

## Meeting the Standard

The National Green Building Standard for all residential construction work was recently published by NAHB; the

standard applies to construction, including single family homes, apartments and condos, land development, and remodeling and renovation. The standard has been approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and is the first green building rating system to be approved by ANSI, making it the benchmark for green homes.

The standard defines what green practices can be incorporated into residential development and construction and how homeowners can operate and maintain their green homes. But the standard also provides for flexibility—allowing home builders and home buyers to make green choices based on climate and geography as well as style preferences and budget. As part of the stringent process required by ANSI, NAHB and the International Code Council gathered a fully inclusive and representative consensus committee composed of a broad spectrum of builders, architects, product manufacturers, regulators and environmental experts. The work of the consensus committee was administered by the NAHB Research Center, an ANSI Accredited Standards Developer.

## Reaching for the Emerald Student

Bronze—Silver—Gold—Emerald! Emerald denotes the highest achievement in residential green construction. A builder, remodeler or developer must incorporate a minimum number of features in the following areas: energy, water and resource efficiency, lot and site development, indoor environmental quality and homeowner education; the more points accrued, the higher the score.

We want to produce “Emerald” students who are entrepreneurs and employees who have more analytical reasoning ability and a broader skill base. With the National Green Building Standard now approved by ANSI, HBI has a benchmark for green residential construction and will incorporate these standards into its education and training. “HBI will infuse

these standards in all its educational offerings, from the industry's sought-after Residential Construction Academy Series of training materials used in high schools and two-year programs to its award-winning trades training programs,” says Steve Kramer, Vice President of HBI's Residential Construction Academy.

HBI offers curriculum for the trades that includes: basic principles for construction, carpentry, electrical principles, facilities maintenance, house wiring, HVAC, masonry and plumbing. The textbooks include instructor guides and student workbooks for each as well as e-Resource CDs. While the current texts have green content throughout, the revisions of each trade area will have a defined green emphasis.

In addition, HBI is offering instructor

and student certification to help shape a workforce that is skilled, knowledgeable and able to meet the needs of the residential construction industry. To advance the series to this next level of competence, HBI selected The Ohio State University as a partner in instructor certification because of the institution's long-standing achievements and status in the field of workforce development and career and technical education.

It's all online—that's green! For additional information about the National Green Building Program, visit [www.nahbgreen.org](http://www.nahbgreen.org). For additional certification information, visit [www.hbi.org](http://www.hbi.org). **I**

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## Students Make It Happen—Building Green

Students in Bel Air, Maryland, are learning green from the ground up. As Harford County's singular school for academic studies and career and technical education, Harford Technical High School serves a population of 1,040 students from throughout the county. Students in grades nine through 12 are offered opportunities to prepare for college, further

postsecondary technical education, and/or enter the workforce or U.S. military. Harford Technical provides state-of-the-art facilities, with a rigorous curriculum offered by staff that creates a challenging learning environment for all students. Faculty and staff strive to integrate academic and technical fields so that all studies are meaningful and rewarding for all students.

Michael Svezese, who heads the newly formed collaborative between Harford Technical, Harford Habitat for Humanity, Bank of America and the Student Trades Foundation, is giving his students a head start in the area

of green building. Students in Svezese's construction technologies program get to experience the academic-technical integration taking place at their school as they build a modular home for Harford Habitat. Bank of America is lending green financial support and Harford Habitat is supplying the materials for the project, all of which meet the green building criteria. From framing to spackling drywall, Svezese and his team of students are completing all aspects of the construction on the home. The anticipated time for completion is later this month. **I**

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