

CONSTRUCTION DAYS DIG INTO CAREER OPTIONS

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Several months ago, Zachary Ensor had no idea he would be starting his career only four days after graduation. Now, the Kennard Dale graduate is a full-time general laborer at Stewart & Tate Construction headquartered in York.

"I knew I wanted to go into some sort of trade," Zach says. "Whether it was being a mechanic or whatnot, but it was all up in the air."

He admits that his entry into York County's workforce wouldn't have been possible without experiencing Construction Days, a York County Economic Alliance event piloted this past spring. Construction Days is modeled after the successful

"Construction Days made me more aware of what was out there. And a lot of the people I've met seem to enjoy what they're doing. I felt like I could find my own spot with them."

-Zachary Ensor, Stewart & Tate Construction

Manufacturing Days event the YCEA hosts each fall. This experience gives high school juniors and seniors an introduction to what a typical day in the construction or manufacturing industry is like.

"We want students to know the trade industry is always looking for young and energetic people who are willing to put their best foot forward. There are hundreds of jobs available here in York County, and employers are ready to hire them at a great starting salary," says Kevin Schreiber, President and CEO of the York County Economic Alliance.

Stewart & Tate hosted the first Construction Days and showcased work in safety, estimating, and project management. Students also received a tour of the equipment repair

facility and got the opportunity to check out the equipment.

Stewart & Tate President and CEO Tim Tate was as impressed with the experience as Zach. "It blew us out of the water," he says. "When I spoke to the students, I couldn't believe how interested they were and how I basically had everyone's attention for 45 minutes."

For Stewart & Tate, Construction Days gave the company an engaging opportunity to promote its industry to a new audience. "We looked at Construction Days as a chance to get young people interested in the construction business, and probably more importantly to let them realize that there were career paths out there other than going

to a four-year college," Tim adds. "It's a very rewarding career. When you're finished at the end of the day, you can go home and look and see what you did."

Fast forward several weeks later...Zach has already helped pave a parking lot for a new building in Maryland. He hopes to learn more about excavating and — one day — drive the machinery.

"Construction Days made me more aware of what was out there to do," he says. "And a lot of the people I've met seem to enjoy what they're doing. I felt like I could find my own spot with them."



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