



Construction Industry Round Table

Business News

A force for positive change in the design / construction industry

07/19/2018 – Workforce/Talent Issues Attract Top Billing at the White House and in Congress

The White House announced today that the President will sign an Executive Order that establishes the *National Council for the American Worker*. The Council will be charged with developing a comprehensive national strategy to address workforce development. The new body will also be tasked with helping to expand the number of apprenticeships available to Americans today. Much of the impetus for creation of the Council came out of the special Department of Labor Task Force charged with investigating apprenticeship matters and devising a set of recommendations. The Council will become a focal point for a myriad of efforts to be coordinated and pursued.

In addition to the Administration's efforts, the U.S. Congress also upped its game on workforce matters with the launch of a new bipartisan *Congressional Apprenticeships Caucus*. Opportunity America Career & Job Coalition, which CIRT is a member, attended the kick-off meeting of the new caucus, which gathered stakeholders to discuss the benefits of apprenticeship programs, the challenges that practitioners face in establishing and running these programs, as well as what Congress' role might be in supporting these efforts.