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Build Montana Program Earns Second National Award

Build Montana, the heavy equipment program and workforce initiative created through a partnership between the Montana Contractors Association (MCA) and the Montana Equipment Dealers Association (MEDA), was recently honored on the national stage for the second time. Build Montana program partners were in Chicago last week to receive the "Lester J. Heath" Award from the Associated Equipment Distributors (AED) Foundation during their annual summit.

This award is presented to individuals and groups for outstanding contributions to workforce development innovations. Representatives from the program's first year included the MCA, MEDA, RDO Equipment, Billings Public Schools, and the Montana Department of Labor & Industry. "This program brought together industry competitors and associations, to work with the public schools," said David Smith, Executive Director of the MCA. "The end result is we have creatively started to work on the workforce needs of contractors in Montana. This is a classic Montana example of how we solve problems."

The program was recognized last year by the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), winning the AGC Chapter Workforce Development award, as the nation's top workforce initiative. Build Montana currently has a program in its third year in Billings, and a program in its second year in Kalispell. The MCA has introduced a third program that will begin in Missoula starting this spring semester.

The Montana Contractors Association, a chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), is a trade organization representing commercial, industrial and public works construction firms. Our Mission is simple: Working together, we advocate for quality contractors, people, and projects by providing value and opportunity for our members. Learn more at www.mtagc.org, or contact David Smith, Executive Director david@mtagc.org, or 406-442-4162.

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