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Build Montana Graduates 10 Students From Billings Program

Last week, 10 students from Senior, Skyview, West, and the Billings Career Center graduated from the Montana Contractors Association’s Build Montana program. The program, which focuses on construction heavy equipment, completed its second year of existence in Billings. Build Montana is a partnership of the MCA, the Montana Equipment Dealers Association, and the MCA Education Foundation.

While in the program, students learn about worksite safety, parts identification, operation and maintenance of heavy equipment, and career opportunities in construction. Students spent two days showcasing their equipment operation skills, culminating in a dig-off between students to see who could excavate the deepest hole in a three-minute timespan. Graduation ceremonies took place on Thursday, May 5. Each student was presented with a completion certificate, gift card from the MCA, and an assortment of items from the program’s partners.

The success of the Build Montana program in Billings would not be possible without the support of MCA member partners – RDO Equipment Co., Knife River, COP Construction, Tractor & Equipment Co., and Tri State Truck & Equipment. “The support we have received from Billings Public Schools and our members has been tremendous,” said David Smith, MCA Executive Director. “While many of these companies are competitors when it comes to doing business, they have come together as partners to emphasize the importance of building construction’s future workforce.”

Build Montana currently has a program in it’s first year in Kalispell at Flathead High School.

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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