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Burns & McDonnell Opens Construction Academy to Train Hard Hat-Ready Workforce of the Future

HOUSTON, Texas — [Burns & McDonnell](#) cut the ribbon today on its [Construction Academy](#) in Houston, Texas. The Academy provides online knowledge assessments and hands-on craft construction training through its campus in Greater Houston as well as through mobile units it will send out to construction project sites around the country.

“The Construction Academy is a bold step forward in our vision to be the premier provider of craft construction labor in the country,” says Brett Williams, president of the [Construction Group](#) at Burns & McDonnell. “Through our combination of knowledge and hands-on assessments, we are equipping our construction professionals with the tools they need to be successful out in the field.”

Associated Builders and Contractors reports the construction industry will need to bring in nearly a [half-million new workers](#) in 2025 on top of normal hiring trends to meet industry demand.

The Academy’s 14,000-square-foot recruitment and training hub in the Houston suburb of Pearland consists of classroom space and other learning areas where construction professionals can take knowledge assessments and other types of training. A permanent hands-on skills assessment and training facility that simulates work taking place on a construction site will be complete at Pearland in 2026. Hands-on assessments in skills ranging from pipefitting to concrete are currently taking place in temporary training facilities at the Academy campus.

In addition, Burns & McDonnell is building a fleet of mobile training units to take both knowledge and hands-on assessments to the field at its project sites around the country.

Local leaders from industry, education and government attended the ribbon cutting Feb. 13 at the Construction Academy.

“We’re excited for what the Burns & McDonnell Construction Academy means for workforce development in the region,” says Kevin Cole, Pearland, Texas, Mayor. “We look forward to a robust pipeline of local and regional construction professionals receiving their knowledge and hands-on training at the Academy.”

[Top craft roles Burns & McDonnell will be training and hiring](#) for its construction projects include laborers, pipefitters, substation electricians, carpenters, equipment operators, welders, ironworkers and riggers. Top industries include oil and gas, electrical substations, solar power and battery storage, water, and aviation fueling.

“What is the single most critical resource to accomplish all the construction work our country needs? People — more specifically, skilled trades — to safely and successfully build our future,” says Jeff Allen, senior vice president in the Construction Group at Burns & McDonnell.

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About Burns & McDonnell

Working from more than 75 offices around the world, Burns & McDonnell designs and builds critical infrastructure. Our family of companies — driven by engineers, construction professionals, architects, planners, technologists and scientists — delivers projects grounded in safety and a desire to make a difference as we make our clients successful. Founded in 1898, Burns & McDonnell is 100% employee-owned. [Learn more.](#)