



News Release

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Contact: Kyle Schwarm,
608-244-5883; kschwarm@abcwi.org

Statement from ABC WI on AB 745; high school apprenticeship

MADISON, WI – Statement from John Mielke, president of Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) of Wisconsin, on Assembly Bill 745, which was signed into law today (Thursday) by Governor Scott Walker in Green Bay:

“On behalf of our 870 construction employer members in Wisconsin, I want to thank Governor Walker for signing AB 745 into law. This very sensible initiative will help address the skills gap by providing more education access for Wisconsinites interested in highly-skilled, family-sustaining construction careers. The average age of a Wisconsin construction apprentice is 28, a decade older than the age of a typical high school graduate. AB 745 will expose more of our youth to careers in construction without costing taxpayers any more money.”

The ABC-backed bill, authored by Rep. Romaine Quinn (Barron) and State Senator Pat Testin (Stevens Point), will allow high school seniors to begin apprenticeship programs early, similar to high school students taking advanced placement (AP) courses for college credit. Construction apprenticeship programs are typically three- to five-years in length. AB 745 unanimously passed the State Senate and State Assembly.

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Associated Builders and Contractors is a national trade association, representing more than 21,000 merit contractors, subcontractors, material suppliers, manufacturers and construction-related professionals. With more than 870 members, the Wisconsin chapter is the largest in the country. ABC members support the merit philosophy which stresses open competition and the free enterprise system and believe the best construction projects are those built on merit. To learn more about ABC of Wisconsin visit ABCWI.org.