



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **BCANJ Summer Program Puts 11 Students To Work In Construction Firms**

**Edison, NJ** – As students head back to college this month, 11 of them leave behind a summer filled with work in their chosen career – construction. The students were all interns through the Student Summer Work Program sponsored by Building Contractors Association of New Jersey (BCANJ), which placed them in 10 member contractor firms in New Jersey.

Because of the economy, the number of construction projects in the state dramatically decreased this year, but the students were able to work on jobsites from Voorhees to Newark Airport, Princeton to Rutgers. When they completed their 12-week program, the students returned to school with a \$2,000 educational scholarship and a \$1,500 personal grant, a helpful financial boost in a tough recession. Jose Franco, a senior at Fairleigh Dickinson University in Teaneck, was offered a full-time position at his construction firm employer, Wetlands, Inc., of River Edge.

Most of the students are enrolled at the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT) in Newark, which partnered with BCANJ more than a quarter-century ago to develop the program. Along with Jose Franco, two other students attend Fairleigh Dickinson University, and one attends Rowan University in Glassboro. All are pursuing degrees in construction management and engineering. As part of the summer program, the students participated in a mandatory OSHA 30-Hour Construction Safety & Health Outreach Program. They all maintain at least a 2.5 grade point average and have successfully completed a lengthy roster of construction-related courses that includes mathematics, physics, structural design, surveying and the environment.

“These students bring strong coursework knowledge to the task,” said BCANJ Executive Director Darlene Regina. “Over the course of the summer, they gain valuable practical experience, guided by the best construction professionals in New Jersey. Regardless of economic downturns, our members recognize the importance of passing on their knowledge to the next generation. And because of the recession, we’re particularly pleased our members could sponsor nearly a dozen students this year.”

Member companies who hosted students this summer included Damon G. Douglas Co., Cranford; Epic Management, Inc., Piscataway; Hall Construction Co., Inc., Howell; Hunter Roberts Construction Group, Bedminster; Wetlands, Inc., River Edge; March Associates Construction Inc., Wayne; Joseph A. Natoli Construction Corp., Pine Brook; Prismatic Development Corp., Fairfield; Turner Construction Co., Somerset; and Vericon Construction Company, Westfield.

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### **About BCANJ**

Established in 1937, Edison-based Building Contractors Association of New Jersey (BCANJ) is made up of some 225 active and associate members who are engaged in commercial, institutional and industrial construction. BCANJ works to unify the construction industry in terms of labor relations, improved business methods and standards, high safety standards, and overall project efficiency and productivity. Through an exchange of services and information, BCANJ members are made aware of issues that directly impact the construction industry in New Jersey.

### **Interns in the BCANJ 2009 Student Summer Work Program:**

**Steven Barbera of Wayne**, attending NJIT, was selected to work on the Rutgers Livingston Student Center project in New Brunswick for Joseph A. Natoli Construction Corp. of Pine Brook.

**Peter Campisi of Fairfield**, attending NJIT, was selected to work at Epic Management, Inc., of Piscataway, and was assigned to a jobsite at Rutgers University Newark Campus.

**Ivan Cavieses of East Windsor**, attending NJIT, was selected to work at Vericon Construction Company of Westfield.

**Brent Cole of West Berlin**, attending Rowan University, was selected to work on a project in Woodbury for Hall Construction Company, Inc., of Howell.

**Eric De Cola of Point Pleasant**, attending NJIT, was selected to work in the office of Damon G. Douglas Company of Cranford.

**Jose Franco of North Bergen**, attending Fairleigh Dickinson University, was selected to work in the office of Wetlands, Inc., of River Edge.

**Steven Glavan of Waldwick**, attending Fairleigh Dickinson University, was selected to work at Red Bull Park in Harrison for Hunter Roberts Construction Group of Bedminster.

**Angel Lugo of Hamilton**, attending NJIT, was selected to work on a jobsite in Voorhees for March Associates Construction, Inc., of Wayne.

**Arkar Lwin of Fort Lee**, attending Fairleigh Dickinson University, was selected to work at West New York School #3 for Prismatic Development Corp. of Fairfield.

**Matthew Septak of Monroe Twp.**, attending NJIT, was selected to work at University Medical Center in Plainsboro for Turner Construction Company of Somerset.

**Andres Vanegas of Fords**, attending NJIT, was selected to work on a Newark Airport project for Prismatic Development Corporation of Fairfield.

**Individual photos are available upon request.**

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