



Dear Pre-Apprenticeship Program Training Provider:

**The 2017 Women Build Nations (WBN)** conference returns in the fall to **Chicago!** The North American Building Trades Unions and Chicago Women in Trades are once again the proud sponsors of the conference. The conference dates are **October 13<sup>th</sup> - 15<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. This year, anticipating attendance of 2,000 or more tradeswomen, we are hosting the conference at the Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Hotel near the lakefront and McCormick Place, which is not only the largest convention center in the country, it is a venue many women had a hand in building over the years. Last year's conference attracted over 1,600 participants from across the nation and several countries, making it the largest tradeswomen conference in the world!

This annual conference brings together tradeswomen from multiple construction crafts, and industry partners including unions, employers, and registered apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship program staff. The conference is an opportunity to build leadership skills, learn strategies for overcoming challenges and unite around common issues. Workshops designed to support pre-apprenticeship training program students and graduates in their career pathways in employment and registered apprenticeship are available among the other general conference workshops, plenary sessions, and events. We hope you will consider attending!

Chicago Women in Trades and our partners are committed to ensuring access and opportunity for aspiring tradeswomen to attend the **2017 Women Build Nations** conference as we recognize that our collective success is built upon a strong community and active participation in the tradeswomen movement. **If you are working with pre-apprentice students or aspiring tradeswoman**, Chicago Women in Trades has a limited number of scholarships through the **Aspiring Tradeswomen Scholarship Fund**. The fund is for women who are pre-apprenticeship training program participants or recent graduates of a pre-apprenticeship training program and not yet in a registered apprenticeship program or employed full time in a blue-collar occupation.

Scholarship funds are very limited and provided ***on a first come, first served basis***. All applications will be verified with the pre-apprenticeship training program provider. The scholarship fund defrays the cost of the conference registration fee. However, travel, lodging, and other conference event fees are ***not*** included.

To apply for a scholarship, please complete the enclosed **2017 WBN Aspiring Tradeswomen Scholarship Request Form**. Please return completed scholarship request forms to Kelly Kupcak at [kkupcak@cwit2.org](mailto:kkupcak@cwit2.org) on or before the deadline date of September 15. Selected recipients will receive notification via email; the registration process is completed on your behalf and at no cost to you. Reservations for lodgings is your responsibility, as the expense is not covered by the scholarship fund. For more information or assistance in requesting a scholarship, please contact Kelly Kupcak at: [kkupcak@cwit2.org](mailto:kkupcak@cwit2.org) or at: 216-246-9190.

**Lodging:**

Hyatt Regency McCormick Place Hotel and The McCormick Place a is located at 2233 South Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive Chicago, Illinois, USA, 60616. Once the hotel reservation and conference registration process is open, you can reserve discounted conference room rate (s) based on single/double occupancy @\$149 per night (plus tax). Triple occupancy @\$169.00 per night (plus tax). Thank you and we hope to see you at the conference!

Warm regards,  
Jayne Vellinga, Executive Director  
Chicago Women in Trades