

# News Release



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## **U.S. Labor Department's Head of Apprenticeship and Training Honors Skilled Trades Workers at the Pirates-Reds Game** *Event highlights the "Skills to Build America's Future" Initiative*

**PITTSBURGH** – The U.S. Labor Department's Administrator of Apprenticeship and Training Anthony Swoope was on hand today at PNC Park for a double play. In addition to cheering on the teams and throwing the game's first pitch, Swoope joined baseball fans in honoring the hardworking men and women who build America.

"Skilled construction workers are in demand now more than ever as the baby boom generation moves into retirement," said Swoope. "Community college and apprenticeship programs are a viable alternative for those who don't choose the four-year college path. Using on-the-job training in tandem with classroom instruction allows workers to begin earning a good paycheck and climbing the career ladder faster."

The U.S. Department of Labor, together with the Skilled Trades Coalition and the Pittsburgh Pirates, paid tribute to the nation's skilled trades workers as part of the "*Skills to Build America's Future*" Initiative today during ballpark festivities. The initiative is a nationwide outreach and education effort to attract the next generation of workers to the skilled trades. Over the next eight years, there will be nearly one million new jobs for these workers -- an increase of 15 percent.

In addition to pre-game ceremonies welcoming skilled trades men and women, fans had the opportunity to visit a Skilled Trades Tent on Federal Street, where visitors could learn more about careers in the skilled trades, get baseball great Bob Walk's autograph, and try out a 40-foot crane simulator.

Partners in the initiative include the Construction Industry Round Table, the National Heavy & Highway Alliance and its seven affiliated international unions and the National Association of Home Builders.

Swoope said, "The best way to ensure a pipeline of workers entering the skilled trades is to encourage young people and transitioning workers to consider apprenticeship as an avenue to well paying jobs with good benefits and the option of becoming an independent business owner. Skilled trades workers construct the buildings and homes in which we live and the roads that take us there. These are noble professions that ensure our nation's future economy, infrastructure and safety."

More information on the "Skills to Build America's Future" Initiative can be found at [www.careervoyages.com](http://www.careervoyages.com). Individuals interested in accessing information or job training and career opportunities in their communities can also visit their local One-Stop Career Centers. To find the One-Stop nearest you, log on to [www.servicelocator.org](http://www.servicelocator.org).

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