PHCC of Iowa is the premier organization working for the interests of the Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors in the state of Iowa. Our member companies range from one to two person operations to larger, multi-site shops.

PHCC values member interaction and plans networking opportunities throughout the year in order to foster a community working towards a better workforce environment and one that will meet the needs of the future.

INDUSTRY REPRESENTATION

In these days of shifting industry standards and unfair utility competition, the need to be heard in statehouses and the halls of Congress has never been greater. PHCC of Iowa membership gives contractors a voice with legislators, giving them the lobbying edge it takes to compete and win. PHCC of Iowa has a lobbyist on staff that keeps an ear to the ground on all things legislative relating to the p-h-c industries in our state.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

One of PHCC of Iowa’s primary goals has always been providing quality education and training. From our Apprenticeship Program to our Continuing Education classes, PHCC of Iowa is constantly developing the most relevant training to provide to our members and others in the industry to ensure that everyone has access to the “gold standard” in p-h-c training tools. Coupled with PHCC National’s software and business management expertise, PHCC of Iowa members are able to learn best practices and train apprentices with some of the best available tools and information.

INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Through PHCC National and PHCC of Iowa, our members are granted special access to a number of industry partners that help make their businesses better. Through discounts, resources, and recognition programs, PHCC members can ensure a safe and productive work force in their shop.
Apprenticeship is a great way for individuals to gain a secondary education, outside of a traditional college format, that allows them to earn while they learn and set themselves up for a successful career.

It is estimated that for every four workers leaving a skilled trade there is only one trained worker to replace them. Statistics like these make it clear how important it is to stress the benefits of a career in the skilled trades to the up-and-coming workforce. In Iowa, PHCC of Iowa is working hard to fight the stigma of careers in the Plumbing and HVAC fields by promoting the various avenues and STEM skills that are an everyday part of today’s Plumbing and HVAC careers. PHCC of Iowa spends considerable time each year reaching out to students, counselors, and school districts to speak about the advantages that a career in the trades can offer.

PHCC of Iowa is dedicated to helping students discover the power of becoming an apprentice in the plumbing-heating-cooling trades. As a unique blend of classroom work and on-the-job training, apprenticeship helps develop hands-on skills and academic knowledge. In many states, including Iowa, apprenticeship is also the key to gaining a state license in a lifelong career.

PHCC of Iowa hosts hundreds of students from all across the state of Iowa. Our program features two locations with quality instructors and curriculum as well as opportunities for scholarships, State Contests, and awards. We are proud to have graduated over 250 students in the last several years and we look forward to continuing to help educate new apprentices.

www.phccia.org  |  apprenticeship@phccia.org  |  515-282-8192
PHCC-IOWA LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ACTIVITIES

PHCC-Iowa is working on behalf of contractors in both the state legislature and federal regulatory arenas. Earlier this year, we were successful in getting legislation introduced in the Iowa legislature, House File 639, that would require state inspections on all new installations of plumbing and mechanical systems. Additionally, we have been working the last two years to try to convince the Department of Labor to allow a variance from their current one-to-one journeyperson to apprentice supervision ratio.

STATEWIDE INSPECTIONS PROPOSED

The Iowa legislature passed a statewide licensing law for plumbing and mechanical masters, journeymen and apprentices over 10 years ago. One component that was not included at that time was a requirement for statewide inspections on all new installations of plumbing or mechanical systems.

Currently, it is primarily the larger communities in the state that have plumbing and mechanical permitting and inspection requirements. The state has adopted a state plumbing code and a state mechanical code that licensees must follow when they provide these services to consumers. They are also required to submit bids on projects based upon these state codes. Without statewide inspections, consumers are not guaranteed that the work completed conforms to the state plumbing and mechanical codes. Additionally, we believe that statewide inspections will uncover problems before they arise that can be resolved by the licensee. Although this bill has not passed either the Iowa House or Senate, we will be working during the 2020 legislative session to try to do so.

WORKING TO ALLOW A VARIANCE TO THE CURRENT 1-1 SUPERVISION RATIO

One requirement for individuals seeking to obtain their journeyman license, that was set forth in the original statewide licensing law, is that they need to complete a four-year Department of Labor (DOL) approved apprenticeship program in order to take the state exam.

Because of safety concerns in the construction trades, the DOL has adopted a one-to-one supervision ratio standard for apprentices. This means that a company needs to assign one journeymen to supervise one apprentice. With the tremendous need for new employees, this DOL supervision ratio is a challenge for many businesses but especially for small companies. An established two-person plumbing company can only hire two apprentices but then they must wait four years, until the original apprentices complete the program, before they are able to hire a third apprentice.

The PHCC of Iowa Board and staff have been working to try to obtain a variance to change the supervision ratio from 1-1 to 1-2; one journeyman supervising two apprentices. Ratio variances often are based on a variety of factors that include the quality of the apprenticeship program and the degree of hazardous work that is being performed by the apprentices. PHCC of Iowa agrees with the Department of Labor that the apprentice’s safety is paramount, but we feel that because a majority of our members perform service work and residential installation and repair, that the safety risk to our apprentices is minimal.

We feel this is a needed change in order to try to fill the skilled worker gap that exists today.
PHCC OF IOWA CONTINUING EDUCATION

Since licensing began in 2009, PHCC of Iowa has provided quality Continuing Education Courses for over 2,000 licensees in the state by partnering with experienced plumbing and mechanical instructors and code experts from ICC and IAPMO. The State of Iowa requires members of every licensed or regulated profession to obtain continuing education as a condition of license renewal. PHCC of Iowa assists members and non-members in the pursuit of these credits by hosting 8-hour Continuing Education courses across the state.

BUILD MY FUTURE

PHCC of Iowa has joined the Iowa Home Builders Association, along with several other industry partners, to bring the Build My Future event to our state. This fantastic event, geared toward high school students, provides opportunities to experiment with tools and experience the day-to-day tasks of several facets of the Construction Industry.

Participating schools will send students for approximately five hours of activities provided by industry partners. These activities will include educational displays, hands-on equipment operations, and learning labs. PHCC of Iowa contractors and apprentices volunteer their time to assist students with the hands-on projects at the PHCC-IA booth and provide the opportunity for questions and dialogue relating to the plumbing, heating, and cooling industries.

In 2019, Build My Future featured four main events in separate cities across Iowa to maximize the impact to high school students across our state. The PHCC-IA Booth had activities where students learned about sheet metal fabrication, electrical controls, PEX piping, and PVC assembly. Over 2,500 students participated in the event and were exposed to the plumbing, heating, and cooling industries as a result. The Build My Future event will continue in 2020, with PHCC of Iowa once again maintaining a Key Sponsor spot as we work to re-frame careers in the trades and share the amazing opportunities available in the p-h-c industries.

To learn more about joining PHCC and making a difference in the plumbing and mechanical trades, please visit our website at www.phccia.org or contact us at 515-282-8192.