

**ACCS**  
INNOVATION  
CENTER

# PULSE CHECK



April 2025

# 41,000+

ENROLLED



**Skills** for  
**Success**

## >>> NEW COURSE ANNOUNCEMENTS - IN DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE & SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTS NEEDED



**Traffic Control Flagger**

Last week was **National Work Zone Awareness Week**, and the ACCS Innovation Center is proud to continue the focus on safer roads.

We're developing a new SFS **Traffic Control Flagger** course and are seeking task force members and a subject matter expert to help shape it. Interested?

Complete the [Task Force Interest Form](#) or the [SME Interest Form](#) to get involved!

We are expanding our **paving industry series** with a new SFS **Backhoe Operator course** — designed to prepare Alabamians for in-demand roles in construction and roadwork.

We're currently seeking task force members and a subject matter expert to help guide course development. Interested?

Complete the [SME Interest Form](#) or the [Task Force Interest Form](#) to join us in building Alabama's workforce!



**Backhoe Operator**



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# Skills for Success

## Proven Impact - Employment Survey Results

### Job Placement

**72%**

of those unemployed before the course secured jobs using the skills they learned.

### Wage Growth

**48%**

of all respondents reported increased earnings—a direct path to greater financial stability for Alabama families.

### Career Mobility

**32%**

of respondents already employed before training reported receiving a new position or pay increase after completing a course.

### Why This Matters

#### Strengthening Alabama's Economy

More skilled workers mean businesses can grow and compete.

#### Reducing Workforce Gaps

Courses are built with industry, ensuring a pipeline of qualified workers.

#### Enhancing Financial Stability

Higher wages support families and local communities.

### A Strong Return on Investment

Investing in workforce training is about real economic impact. When workers move into higher-paying jobs, Alabama benefits from:

Increased consumer spending → Stronger businesses → A more competitive workforce



[TrainForAlabama.com](https://TrainForAlabama.com)



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>>> **Alabama SkillsUSA Heavy Equipment Operation Competition**

The inaugural **Alabama SkillsUSA Heavy Equipment Operation Competition** brought talented high school students from across Alabama to demonstrate their skills in heavy equipment operation. These competitors showcased their expertise through a written exam, pre-trip inspection, and hands-on skills challenge—applying what they've learned through Skills for Success training at Alabama's community colleges.

The competition was a remarkable collaboration between the ACCS Innovation Center, Alabama's community colleges, and industry leaders. We'd like to extend our gratitude to **Thompson Rents** for providing the equipment, and **APAC-Alabama, Inc.** for serving as judges and providing participants with hard hats. Special thanks also to **Chad Sutton** from **LBW Community College**, who played a key role in event planning and judging.





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**1st Place: Jackson Baker**, Hillcrest CTE (Shelton State Community College)

**2nd Place: Cameron McDaniel**, Lawrence County Career Technical Center (Northwest-Shoals Community College)

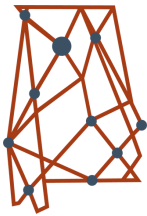
**3rd Place: Junior Vasquez**, Haleyville Center of Technology (Northwest-Shoals Community College)

Each winner received a prize package, including a Red Wing Shoes gift card and essential safety gear, generously provided by the **Paths for Success Foundation** and **Red Wing Shoes** store in Huntsville, Alabama.



We're incredibly proud of these students, their high schools, and the Alabama community colleges that supported them throughout this process. We can't wait to see what next year's competition brings!





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## >>> SNEAD STATE + CORBITT POWER & LIGHT + KING'S DISCOUNT CENTER

Snead State Community College partnered with Corbitt Power and Light and King's Discount Center to offer Skills for Success CDL training! Employees from both companies received hands-on training to help them earn their commercial driver's licenses. We're proud to highlight this partnership to show how businesses are teaming up with their local community colleges to build a stronger, more skilled workforce!



## >>> JEFFERSON STATE + CUSTOMER SERVICE TRAINING

Jefferson State Community College is hosting a Customer Service Professional program, with the first cohort recently completing the Skills for Success Customer Service course as part of the training. Participants earned their ACCS credential, gaining key skills in communication, professionalism, and problem-solving. By incorporating Skills for Success into a broader training program, Jefferson State is creating flexible, stackable pathways to help students grow their careers.





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>>> **FROM CLASSROOM TO CAREER:** Devonte Kirkland's Journey to a Bright Future

We're thrilled to celebrate Devonte Kirkland's exciting new opportunity! The **Lawson State Community College** graduate will be heading to St. Louis, Missouri on May 19th to commemorate the beginning of a paid internship with Spire—a testament to his hard work and dedication. Kirkland's enrolled in Lawson State's Natural Gas Line Worker Training, which included several Skills for Success training components in November of 2024. His determination led him to complete it on January 24, 2025. Through this initiative, he earned critical certifications in mini excavator and skid steer operation, as well as his CDL A license—valuable skills that prepared him for this next chapter.



"I'm thankful for the skills I learned in the program," Kirkland shared. "And I'm super excited about interning with Spire and becoming a valuable part of their team."

This internship marks an important step in Devonte's career, and we have no doubt he'll achieve great things. Congratulations, Devonte! Your Lawson State family is incredibly proud of your accomplishments.

>>> **ENTERPRISE STATE + COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER**

**Enterprise State Community College** held a Skills for Success **Community Health Worker** course, with participants completing the training and gaining valuable skills to advocate for and assist individuals in need of health and community resources. This course equips students to play a key role in bridging the gap between healthcare providers and the communities they serve.







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## Skills for Success now has TWO courses offered in Spanish! (Theory Only)

### ✓ Available Courses

*Any community college can offer these courses.*

- CDL A
- CDL A Theory Only
- CDL B
- CDL B Theory Only
- CDL B Passenger School Bus
- CDL B Passenger School Bus Theory Only
- CDL B + Passenger Theory Only
- CDL B + Passenger
- Passenger + School Bus
- Passenger Endorsement
- Passenger Theory Only
- School Bus Endorsement
- School Bus Theory Only
- CDL Behind the Wheel Only
- Hazmat Endorsement
- Excavator Operator
- Skid Steer Operator
- Bulldozer Operator
- Asphalt Roller Operator
- Fiber Optics Tech and Installer
- **Fiber Optics Tech and Installer - Spanish**
- Manufactured Home Installer Helper
- Food & Beverage
- **Food & Beverage - Spanish**
- Hotel Operations
- Retail Meat Cutter
- Mental Health Worker
- Carpentry Helper
- Electrical Helper
- Land Survey Technician
- Community Health Worker
- Customer Service
- Ambulance Operator/EVOC

### 💡 Customized Training Courses

*These courses are specialized workforce training programs developed at the request of an ACCS division, partner, or stakeholder to address specific industry or organizational needs.*

#### Available Courses:

- Dual Enrollment Orientation
- FAME Mentorship

#### In-Development Courses:

- Alabama League of Municipalities (ALM) x 10
- Construction Administration Excellence
- ReConnect

### ⚙️ Courses In-Development

*These courses are still in a phase of development, whether that be the development of a task force, filming, or pilot phase.*

- \*Flooring Installation Technician
- \*Barista
- \*Veterinary Assistant
- \*Motor Grader Operator
- \*Forklift Operator
- \*Concrete Mixer Truck Driver
- \*Plumbing Assistant
- \*Nursery Landscape Worker
- \*Machine Operator
- \*Nursing Support Technician (NST)
- \*Biotechnician
- \*Water Treatment Operator Grade 2
- Propane Technician
- Asphalt Lab Technician
- Paver Operator
- Operator Tech Automotive
- Drone Operator
- Screed Operator
- Roof Framing
- Master the Customer Experience
- Onsite Wastewater Treatment Operator

*\*pilot phase*

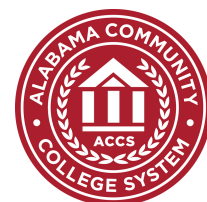
Are you interested in taking a Skills for Success course? Are you an employer looking to offer training to your workforce? Or are you a partner wanting to promote these valuable programs?

**Submit your interest today and let's work together to build a stronger workforce!**

[TrainForAlabama.com](http://TrainForAlabama.com)

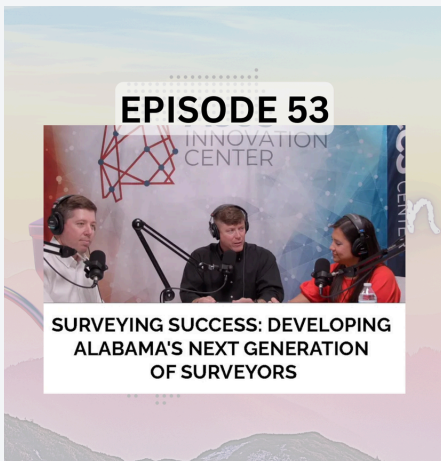


#### Available Trainings



## APRIL INNOVATION UNPLUGGED RECAP

April 2025

**Episode 53**

Surveying Success: Developing Alabama's Next Generation of Surveyors

Jake Bonds - Schoel Senior Vice President

**Episode 54**

Building Giants: Training Alabama's Maritime Workforce

Lindsay Cline - Southeastern Regional Director for the U.S. Navy Maritime Industrial Base and Jennifer Hall - ACCS Southern Regional Workforce Director and Maritime Lead

