

**Skills for  
Success****44,000+**  
ENROLLED[TRAINFORALABAMA.COM](https://trainforalabama.com)

## June Pilot Lab Highlights

### MOTOR GRADER - PILOT 1



The pilot for the Skills for Success **Motor Grader Operator** course was successfully completed in Lee County. This hands-on pilot lab supported upskilling for county engineering employees and featured a mix of both new and experienced motor grader operators. Participants focused on fine-tuning their control skills with an emphasis on starting every project with the final drivability in mind.

The pilot was made possible through a partnership between **Southern Union State Community College, Lee County Engineering, and Henry County Engineering.**

We're proud to see this course moving forward and excited about the long-term impact it will have in growing Alabama's skilled workforce and supporting incumbent workers across the state.

**ACCS**  
INNOVATION CENTER  
PULSE CHECK



## June Pilot Lab Highlights Continued



### NURSERY LANDSCAPE WORKER PILOT 3

The Skills for Success **Nursery Landscape Worker** course officially completed its pilot at **Wallace State Community College**. This hands-on course introduced students to the essential skills needed for careers in nursery, greenhouse, and landscape work. Participants learned about plant care and pruning, proper tool use, mowing equipment operation, and more.

This successful pilot marks an important step forward in preparing job-ready professionals for Alabama's growing horticulture and landscaping industry.

Thank you to Wallace State for leading the way in launching this new training opportunity!

### BIO TECHNICIAN PILOT 1

Over the course of four weeks, students gained hands-on experience with essential biotech lab skills, including PPE and safety procedures, microscope use, staining techniques, measuring solids and liquids, preparing mixtures and media, and operating common lab equipment.

This course is designed to equip Alabamians with the technical knowledge, confidence, and real-world lab experience needed for entry-level roles in the biotech industry.

Thank you to **Lawson State Community College** for leading the way in piloting this groundbreaking course. We're excited to see how it continues to grow and support Alabama's biotech workforce in the months ahead.





## June Success Stories

### WALLACE DOTHAN - CARPENTRY HELPER

A new group of students at **Wallace Community College** successfully completed the Skills for Success **Carpentry Helper** course, gaining real-world experience in residential framing, tool use, and job site safety. These foundational, hands-on skills are essential for entry-level roles in Alabama's construction industry.

Next month, Wallace Dothan will offer a two-week **Residential Construction Academy** in partnership with the **Alabama Home Builders Association & the Home Builders Association of Dothan**, featuring both Carpentry Helper and Electrical Helper courses. This training provides a valuable opportunity for individuals to build job-ready skills and connect directly with local employers looking to hire.

It's a strong example of how Skills for Success continues to serve Alabama communities by growing a skilled, local workforce.



### WALLACE STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE - CULLMAN COUNTY



Two recent graduates from Cullman County, Jacob Burtis and Zack Loyd, earned their Class A CDL through Skills for Success at **Wallace State Community College**!

As students in the Utility Line Worker program at **Cullman Area Technology Academy**, they gained hands-on training and critical industry credentials. The Class A CDL is essential for careers in power delivery, and thanks to Skills for Success training, Jacob and Zack are now certified and job ready.

This milestone highlights the impact of rapid, real-world training available through Alabama's community colleges.



## HIGH SCHOOL – ALSDE CAREER CLUSTER UPDATE



We're excited to share that a total of 30 courses are now available for high school students to take. Additionally, we're pleased to announce that Skills for Success is now aligned with every career cluster recognized by ALSDE, as well as 72 different programs within each career cluster.

– Matt Heaton  
Career Readiness Manager

Skills for Success courses are now officially recognized by the Alabama Department of Education as Career Readiness Indicators (CRIs) across **all career clusters**. Even more notably, a total of 30 courses are now available for high school students to take that align with **72 of the 82 career programs** offered within those clusters.

This recognition marks a major step forward in expanding access to real-world, job-ready training at no cost to students. With hands-on lab training delivered through Alabama's local community colleges, Skills for Success is now even more deeply connected to secondary education and workforce pathways.

We're excited to see the impact this will have as schools begin implementing these offerings during the 2025–2026 school year.





## National Stage Update

### DR. CHRIS COX & SENATOR ARTHUR ORR SHOWCASE THE ACCS INNOVATION CENTER

At the **National Conference of State Legislatures Education Task Force June meeting in Milwaukee**, Dr. Chris Cox, Deputy Chancellor for Instruction, Research, and

Development, joined Senator Arthur Orr to share how Alabama's ACCS Innovation Center and Skills for Success program grew from a simple idea into a model for workforce education. With strong legislative support and a focus on employer needs, Skills for Success is expanding access to no cost, job ready training across the state.

WE'RE PROUD TO SAY THAT ALABAMA IS LEADING THE WAY IN WORKFORCE INNOVATION!

**"THE ACCS IS THE GOLD STANDARD FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT." - STATE LEGISLATOR**



### SkillsUSA NATIONAL LEADERSHIP & SKILLS CONFERENCE

At the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in Atlanta, Career Readiness Team members Matt Heaton and Tom Chappell represented the Innovation Center while supporting Jackson Baker, winner of the SkillsUSA Alabama Heavy Equipment Operator Competition. Skills for Success training prepared Jackson to compete at the national level and demonstrate the power of hands-on learning.





# June Podcast Episodes

INNOVATION UNPLUGGED



## Episode # 59

### SKILLED TO BUILD: STRENGTHENING ALABAMA'S TRADE WORKFORCE

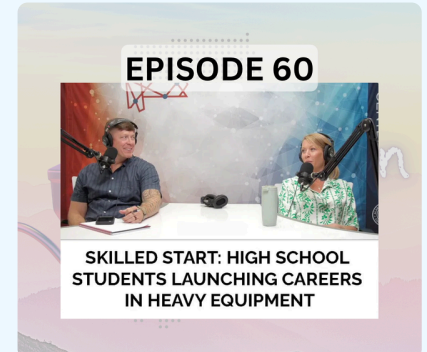
Colby Thompson, Thompson Contractors and Kory Boling, Executive Director of the Alabama Home Builders Foundation



## Episode #60

### SKILLED START: HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LAUNCHING CAREERS IN HEAVY EQUIPMENT

Career Coach Carolyn Wade and HS Students from Huntsville City Schools



## Episode # 61

### PLUMBING PATHWAYS: FROM APPRENTICE TO MASTER PLUMBER

Frank Catlett, All Star Plumbing





# June Podcast Episodes

INNOVATION UNPLUGGED



## EPISODE 62



PATIENT READY: PREPARING NURSE  
SUPPORT TECHNICIANS FOR  
HEALTHCARE

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PATIENT READY: PREPARING NURSE  
SUPPORT TECHNICIANS FOR  
HEALTHCARE

Jesse Gibson, Program Director at Crestwood  
Wound Care & Hyperbaric Medicine



## EPISODE 63



MEET THE IC TEAM:  
TOM CHAPPELL

### Episode # 63

MEET THE IC TEAM: TOM CHAPPELL

Tom Chappell, Career Readiness Coordinator  
for the ACCS Innovation Center





# Task Force & SME Needs

We're building new courses to meet Alabama's workforce needs—and we need your help. For each course, we're looking for 5–8 professionals with at least 5 years of experience in the field to serve on a task force.

We're also seeking one Subject Matter Expert (SME) per course to lead content development. This is a paid opportunity (approx. 20–25 hours of work).

[TASK FORCE INFORMATION VIDEO](#)



## Concrete Form Carpenter

Ideal task force members will have experience in:

- Concrete forming and finishing
- Reading and interpreting structural and rebar drawings
- Operating equipment like skid steers, grade lasers, and plate tamps
- Building with Symons, Doka, or plywood forms
- Installing anchor bolts and using concrete finishing tools

[CLICK HERE: Task Force Link](#)

[CLICK HERE: SME LINK](#)

## Scissor Lift Operator

Ideal participants will have experience in:

- OSHA-compliant scissor lift operation
- Pre-use inspections and safety checks
- Fall protection and harness procedures
- Indoor/outdoor lift use in construction, maintenance, or warehouse settings

[CLICK HERE: Task Force Link](#)

[CLICK HERE: SME LINK](#)