PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Foundation Donates $5,000 to New Orleans Career Center at AWCI's BUILD26

Falls Church, VA—The Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry is proud to announce a $5,000 donation to the New Orleans Career Center (NOCC), a premier hub for career and technical education. The donation was officially presented to NOCC leadership during BUILD26: AWCI's Convention + Expo, held last week in New Orleans.

This contribution is specifically designated to support NOCC's construction trades programs, which provide local trainees with the rigorous, hands-on instruction and industry-recognized certifications needed to excel in the modern workforce.

"The Foundation is dedicated to the future of our industry, and that starts with supporting the institutions that train our future workforce," said Pete Wilhelms, president of the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry and vice president of marketing and product development of Negwer Materials Inc. "We are honored to contribute to the New Orleans Career Center and support their mission of preparing skilled professionals for rewarding careers in the trades."

The New Orleans Career Center has become a vital resource for the city, recently reporting a surge in enrollment as demand for building trades and health-care training continues to grow.

"This support from the Foundation of the Wall and Ceiling Industry is a testament to the importance of the work our trainees are doing every day," said Terrance Payne, director of building trades at the New Orleans Career Center, who accepted the check at the convention. "Investments like this allow us to provide the high-quality equipment and instruction necessary to ensure our graduates are 'day-one' ready for the jobsite."

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About New Orleans Career Center (NOCC)
The New Orleans Career Center is the city's flagship workforce training hub for high school students and adults, offering industry-aligned programs in building trades, health care, engineering and culinary arts. NOCC has prepared more than 2,100 New Orleanians for mid-skill careers with living wages, benefits and opportunities for growth since 2018, ensuring every graduate has the power to shape their own future and the future of New Orleans.

About AWCI
AWCI represents more than 2,500 members and organizations in the acoustics systems, ceiling systems, drywall systems, exterior insulation and finish systems, fireproofing, insulation, prefabrication/panelization and stucco industries. Our members are contractors, suppliers and manufacturers and those in allied trades. Our mission is connecting people in the wall and ceiling industry to innovate, grow and succeed.