

## **Las Vegas High School and Student to be Awarded Grant at RECON Trade Show**

### *Leading Commercial Retail Contractor Values Future Industry Workforce*

Eleven Western Builders, Inc. (EWBi) announced today they will award two grants on Tuesday May 25<sup>th</sup> at the International Council of Shopping Centers (ICSC) RECON trade show in Las Vegas, Nevada. The grants will be awarded to the Construction Management Department of the N.W. Las Vegas Career and Technical Academy (Academy) and Senior Class Student Richard Fields. EWBi is a commercial-retail general contractor licensed in the state of Nevada and 10 other western states. Several retail stores and restaurants in the Las Vegas area were constructed by the company. After taking a tour of the Academy in May 2009 the company's *Students under Construction Program* elected the unique Las Vegas High School to receive the grant funding.

"It's been doom and gloom for a while, but that doesn't mean construction is going to stop forever. We are already seeing an increase in our business this year," said Rick Backus, President of Eleven Western Builders. "With technology changes and higher demands on our projects our industry needs a strong up and coming workforce. We want to make it clear that a career pathway in the construction industry is still a smart move and provides great opportunities for youth."

"Our future depends on our pipeline of a quality top notch workforce," added Backus. "By investing in schools like NW Career and Technical Academy and young aspiring students like Richard we are bettering all sectors of our industry."

According to the Associated General Contractors of Las Vegas, commercial construction came to a near standstill in 2009 with rising retail vacancies and downsizing. Construction and real estate have been one of the hardest hit sectors of the economy. But despite the woes of the industry Eleven Western Builders continues to look forward and recognizes that one key to their industry will be its future workforce. They already are seeing signs of a turn-around and investing in youth is what they view as a win-win opportunity.

"The ICSC Foundation would like to commend Eleven Western Builders on taking the initiative to invest in the next generation of retail real estate professionals," said Valerie J. Cammisio, executive director of the ICSC Foundation. "The ICSC Foundation, which is committed to providing undergraduate and graduate scholarships to retail real estate practitioners, is honored to help Eleven Western Builders present their grant," Cammisio added.

The grant presentation will take place Tuesday morning at 10:00am at the EWBi trade show booth (Booth 211, South Hall, Floor 2) inside the Las Vegas Convention Center. In attendance to present the grants will be President of EWBi Rick Backus along with representatives of the NW Career and Technical Academy, senior class student Richard Fields and the Executive Director of the ICSC Foundation. Members of the media are encouraged to attend.

**About EWBi:**

Eleven Western Builders is a leading general contractor in Retail, Millwork and Retail Services Construction within the Western United States. With over 27 years in business, they are recognized for competitive pricing, flexibility to produce project's and exceptionally qualified to complete projects on a timely basis. They empower their people and resources to handle projects from the customer's view that meet and exceed all challenges faced. Their company culture engages people who are motivated to be the best making Eleven Western Builders stand alone from the competition.