



# BUILDERS TO STUDENTS...



Recently, more than 20 Metro East high school students got a weeklong taste of what it's like to work in the trades for good wages, courtesy of several union locals and the O'Fallon-based Southern Illinois Builders Association and the Southern Illinois Construction Advancement Program.

The program was set up to promote safety, workforce development and economic development. In this event, the program tapped into the region's Explorer troops to find young men and women who would like to know more about working the trades.

"We're just trying to get more students interested in careers in construction, because a lot of them don't have a clue that this is a viable option with good pay and good benefits," SIBA Chief Executive Officer Donna Richter said.

The program provided lunch and bus rides to union training sites which included: St. Louis-Kansas City Regional Council of Carpenters; IBEW (Electricians) Local 309; Plumbers

and Gas Fitters Local 360; and Sheet Metal Workers Local 268. In addition to the training site visits, the students heard presentations from representatives of: Cement Masons and Plasterers Local 90; Boilermakers Local 363; Operating Engineers Local 520; Iron Workers Local 392; and Bricklayers Local 8.

To conclude the week, IMPACT Strategies Inc. provided a construction site visit for a new rehab hospital in Shiloh to "see what actually goes on and, hopefully, see how the different crafts all work together and what they do."

This is the first time SIBA/SI-CAP has ever done this type of an event and officials are hopeful that this combined effort could become an annual opportunity for young people looking for ways to earn good livings and learn valuable skills.

"It's a great opportunity for them that they might not have had a chance to do otherwise," Richter said.

