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The Informer

Construction Trades

## Crossland CTE Construction Trades Students Inspire at Joe A. Sanders Vo-Tech Fund Event

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One by one, students stepped onto the stage and addressed an attentive audience. The first speaker confidently shared her story, followed by a second, then a third, until all five students had presented. Each voice added a unique perspective and message.

Masonry student delivers an excellent speech

These students were all members of the Crossland High School CTE Construction Trades program, invited to speak at the Joe A. Sanders Vo-Tech Fund, Inc. fundraising event on the morning of Saturday, March 7, 2026.

Representing the Electrical, Plumbing, and Masonry programs, the students spoke about why they chose their respective trades, the individuals who inspired them to pursue these career paths, and the advice they would give to other students considering a future in the skilled trades. Their remarks reflected both personal growth and pride in their craft.

The fundraising event was organized by Dr. Jennie Sanders, the beloved wife of the late Joe A. Sanders. Mr. Sanders was a skilled brick mason and the founder of Sanders Masonry, Inc., a well-established masonry company that served the Washington, DC metropolitan area for more than 44 years.

Originally from Cross, South Carolina, Mr. Sanders built a successful masonry business that provided opportunities for family members, subcontractors, and apprentices. Over the decades, Sanders Masonry, Inc. contributed to numerous major construction projects throughout Maryland, Washington, DC, and Virginia.

In honor of Mr. Sanders' legacy of hard work and dedication to the trades, Dr. Jennie Sanders helped establish the Joe A. Sanders Vo-Tech Fund, Inc. Through its initiative, Project Vo-Tech works to create a stronger workforce, a more resilient economy, and a brighter future for Maryland's young people by supporting career and technical education opportunities.

Dr. Jennie Sanders after award presentation

During the event, the five participating Crossland High School Construction Trades students, their supporting teachers, and keynote speaker Carl Hall were recognized with certificates and letters of appreciation. Students also received community service hours for their participation.

This event serves as yet another example of what can happen when community partnerships and CTE Construction Trades programs work together to support the next generation of skilled professionals.

We encourage everyone to learn more about and support Project Vo-Tech and the Joe A. Sanders Vo-Tech Fund, Inc. by visiting their website: https://www.jasvotech.org/services