



**Western
Pennsylvania
Chapter**

Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Pennsylvania

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Allegheny County to Favor Unions at the Expense of Education

Pittsburgh, PA – The Community College of Allegheny College (CCAC) has taken new steps to ensure that merit shop companies cannot place bids on the upcoming \$20 million dollar science building on campus. The school has gone one step further and disguised the Project Labor Agreement (PLA) as part of the Allegheny Stabilization Agreement.

A PLA prohibits merit shop firms from bidding projects due to provisions allowing union-only contractors to bid on these projects. Eighty-five percent of the construction work-force is employed by merit shop contractors, and a union-only PLA would exclude all but fifteen percent of the construction work-force. The CCAC PLA would apply to all future construction projects-- not just the science building. Allowing more contractors, both merit shop and union, the opportunity to bid will ultimately save taxpayer and student dollars by increasing competition.

“Taxpayers will be paying for additional costs that rise because of the PLA,” said ABC of Western PA Chairman, Robert A. Glancy, president of R.A. Glancy & Sons. “The election cycle is upon us and people are playing politics with the taxpayer’s money. With the current political climate, the 2010 elections are shaping up to be contentious on the local, state and federal level – but Allegheny County is letting politics get in the way of free-enterprise construction bidding, at the expense of education,” Glancy added.

CCAC is funded by taxpayer dollars and should look for the best option when choosing a contractor for it’s campus. By not allowing all construction companies to place bids and evaluating the most cost-effective, efficient and safest measures to do so, CCAC is putting a high-dollar price-tag on a building to further promote the election of pro-union officials. These additional costs will affect young students as well as part-time students, who work in addition to continuing their education. The County should open the market to all construction companies and evaluate based on merit and credentials.

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Associated Builders and Contractors of Western Pennsylvania is part of a national association representing more than 25,000 merit shop construction and construction-related firms in 77 chapters across the United States. For more information, visit ABC of Western PA’s Web site, www.abcwpa.org.