

#22-25
June 2, 2025



Pitt's IRISE Hosts Annual Meeting to Showcase Infrastructure Research and Innovation

The University of Pittsburgh's Impactful Resilient Infrastructure Science and Engineering (IRISE) program held its annual meeting on Thursday, May 22, 2025, at Benedum Hall on the university's Oakland campus. The event highlighted both completed and ongoing research initiatives aimed at solving critical highway infrastructure challenges.

IRISE, housed within Pitt's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, fosters collaboration between public infrastructure agencies and private sector firms to develop innovative, research-based solutions for resilient and sustainable highway systems.

Since joining the IRISE consortium in 2019, the Constructors Association of Western Pennsylvania (CAWP) has contributed its expertise in highway construction safety. As a strategic partner, CAWP supports efforts to improve safety protocols through cutting-

edge technologies and practical applications.

At this year's meeting, CAWP Executive Director Rich Barcaskey led a panel discussion focused on the implementation of one of IRISE's safety initiatives: *A Novel Immersive Virtual Reality (VR) Platform for Highway Construction*. The project aims to revolutionize training for construction workers, consultants, and inspectors through immersive VR simulations that replicate real-world highway construction environments.

Panelists included Jason Zang, District Executive for PennDOT District 11; Ed Skorpinski of the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission; and Andy Hanchulak of Golden Triangle Construction. Together, they explored the potential of VR technology to enhance safety awareness and preparedness on job sites across the region.

IRISE's consortium includes key infrastructure stakeholders such as PennDOT, the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission, Allegheny County, Golden Triangle Construction, Michael Baker International, CDR Maguire, and CAWP, all working collaboratively to advance the future of transportation infrastructure.



CAWP CLC Assists in Urban Impact Foundation Renovation

On Thursday, May 29, 2025, the CAWP Constructors Leadership Council (CLC) contributed to the Pittsburgh North Shore community by assisting in the renovation of a residential home for the Urban Impact Foundation (UIF). Working alongside UIF staff, the team helped remove old carpeting and demolish part of the existing structure in preparation for future rehabilitation and remodeling.

UIF is a Christian organization dedicated to serving the North Shore through a holistic approach, providing support in areas such as spiritual growth, education, athletics, performing arts, mentoring, and emotional well-being. This home was strategically selected due to its value and location. It will eventually house a UIF Urban Missionary,

furthering UIF's mission of spiritual development, community service, and outreach in Pittsburgh.

Thank you to Jarid Antonio of Tunstall Engineering and CAWP CLC Outreach Chair for organizing this service project.



Join us at Summer Fest

On **Friday, June 27, 2025**, join us as CAWP celebrates the heavy/highway industry in western PA! The celebration will include food trucks, drinks, music, games, give-a-ways, and fun.

This event is our way of saying thank you to all our dedicated members, volunteers, sponsors, and supporters who have contributed to the longevity and success of the Association. We are immensely grateful for your commitment and hard work over the years!

Summer Fest is **complimentary** for CAWP members and their families, but we request that you register in advance to help us plan. Sponsorship opportunities are also available!

[Learn More & Register](#)

Search the Apprenticeship Readiness Course Candidate Dashboard

Now you can find the right person for your organization and easily search for candidates who have taken the Apprenticeship Readiness Course. These participants are interested in a career in the highway construction trades and reside in western Pennsylvania.

Within the candidate's profile, you'll find applicable equipment experience, certifications, training or vocational school attendance, and more.

To access the Candidate Dashboard, visit the link and enter the password for full access!

Access the Candidate Dashboard

Password: frbarcdashboard2025



How to Use the Dashboard

Did you use the Candidate Dashboard from the Apprenticeship Readiness Course to hire recently?

Please answer this brief survey to let us know if you've recently hired someone from the list of candidates. This information will help guide and offer insight for future workforce development tools.

Take the Survey

MENTAL HEALTH
MINUTE

**YINZ
GOOD?**

While fear and anxiety are words often used interchangeably, they are not the same, and it's important to understand the difference to properly work through

these two emotions.

NAMI offers insight on recognizing the signs and symptoms of fear and anxiety, how to tell the two apart, and guidance on how to process these feelings.

Anxiety and Fear: What's the Difference

**Connect with YinzGood? online - find us on
Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn!**



Recent Bulletins

May 21

CAWP EEO Bulletin #1-25

EEOC's EEO-1 Report Portal Opens

May 19

CAWP Labor Bulletin #5-25

Carpenter and Pile Driver Fringe
Benefit Allocation Changes

Proud Chapter



AGC
THE CONSTRUCTION
ASSOCIATION