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#### FEATURE ARTICLE

#### Middle Skills Education

Planners Are Reimagining Ways to Meld Instruction and Industry

by Carl Knutson

Many jobs of the future will require more than a high school diploma but less than a four-year degree. How should we prepare the next generation of employees?

Middle skills education, personalized curriculum, and student-directed training are playing an increasingly integral role in higher education. A new generation of students is already likely to hold different educational expectations and desires than their predecessors. Accommodating those

#### **4 TAKEAWAYS**

TO EXPAND DEVELOPMENT OF MIDDLE SKILLS EDUCATION . . .

1. Establish a relationship with your loca

"...those jobs require more than a high school diploma, but potentially less than a four-year bachelor's degree. That category of education, skills, and ultimately jobs includes about 35–50 percent of all new job openings projected after 2020."

### Agenda

- History of North Lake College and the relationship with CEF
- The need for a skilled workforce in the construction industry
- The new building
- Growing the program in the future
- Q&A

### Learning Objectives

- How we developed an industry-led program that focuses on real-world career skills, enhancing the institution's academic offerings and supporting students' transition from higher education into the workplace.
- Industry's motivations and goals in this partnership—in particular, the gap between
  future workforce projections in the construction industry and the number of skilled
  workers ready to fill those positions.
- Integrating didactic elements into the design process to create a successful teaching building that can reinforce classroom concepts and skills and enhance the overall student learning experience.
- Establishing collaborative partnerships with K12 districts to identify and engage students who have the potential to thrive in an industry-focused education.

#### What is your current role in the Industry

University/College Facilities Department

Academics/Strategic Planning

Architect

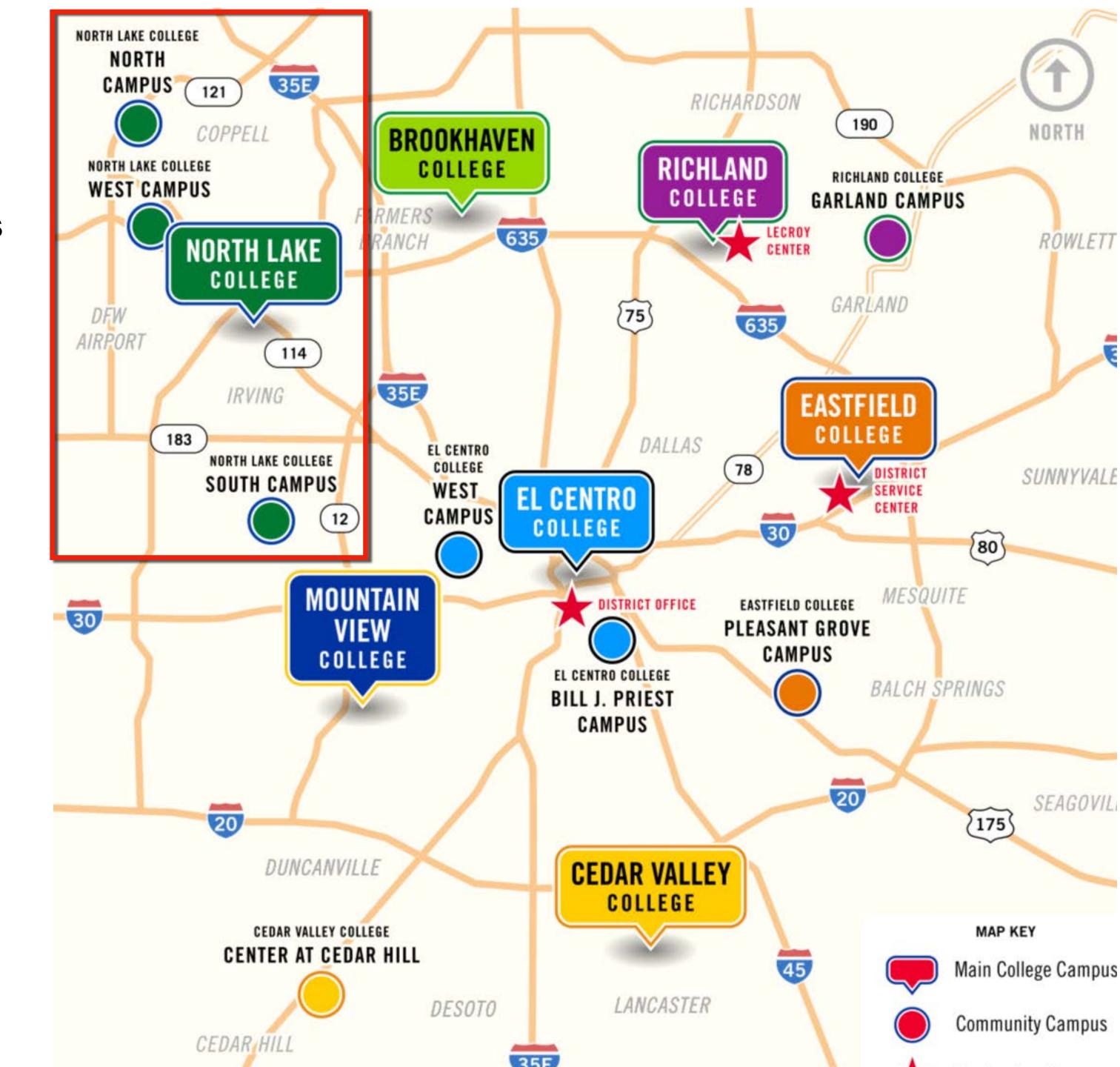
Contractor

Other



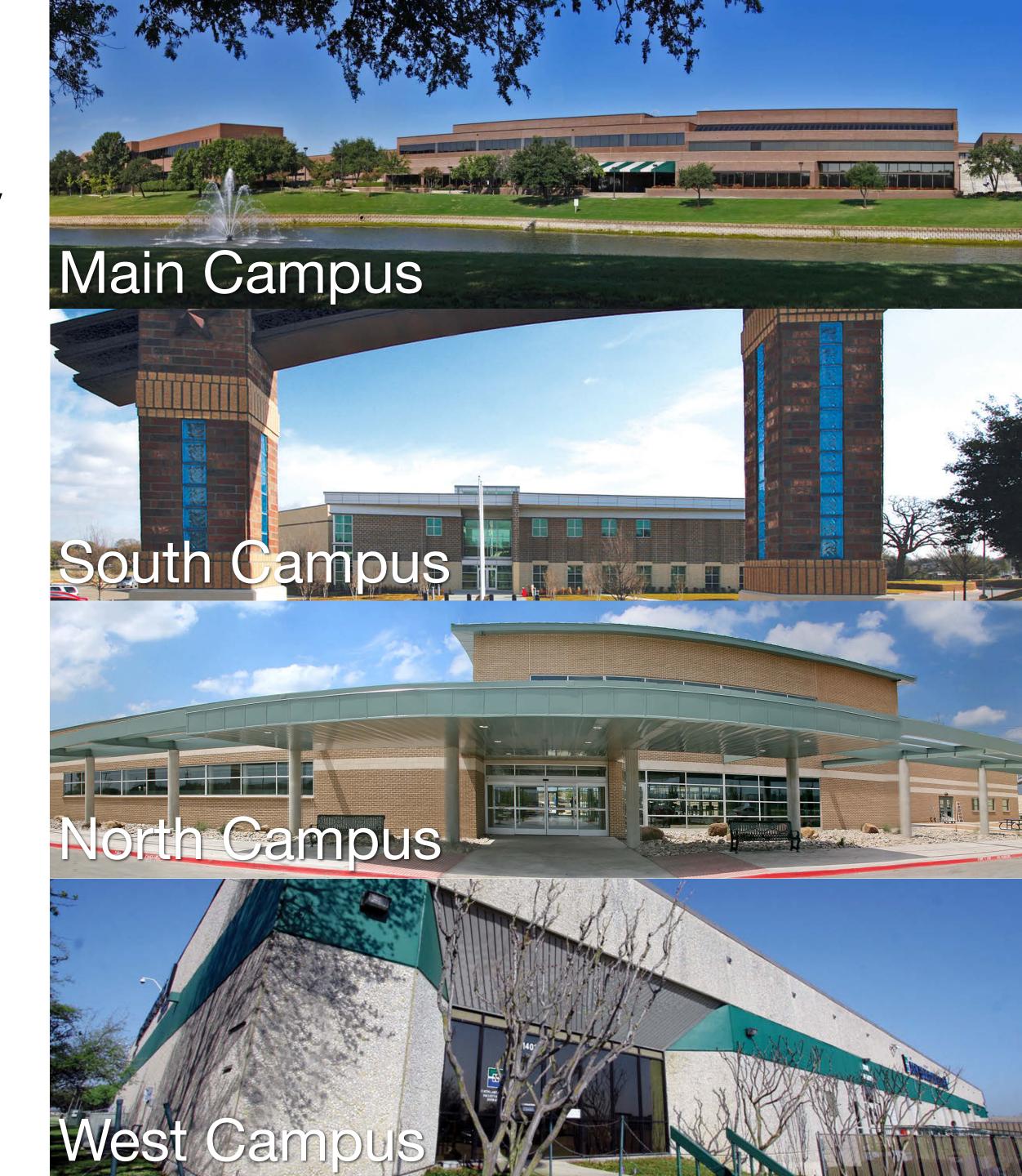
## Dallas County Community College System

- 7 Independently Accredited Colleges
- 2004 Bond Package added 5 campuses across the County
- 123,000 Credit, Workforce, and Community Students
- 300+ Technical Degrees and Certificates
- Home of the Dallas County Promise
- Moving to a One College model to improve the student experience
- Voter approved 2018 Bond Package allows for \$1.1B investment in Education and Workforce Training



#### North Lake College

- Opened in 1977 on 276 acres
- The main campus includes property leased by community partners including ISD Academy High School, Four Season Resort Hotel golf course, and DART light rail station.
- College demographics:
  - 11,500 credit and 4,000 non-credit per semester
  - 18% are first-time-in-college
  - Average age is 25
  - Approximately 10% are international students
  - 75% seeking to transfer to a university
  - 80% attending part time and growing
  - Approximately 15% are dual credit students
- North Campus opened in 2018, located in Coppell, TX at the intersection of Dallas, Tarrant, and Denton counties. The Offering dual credit, academic transfer course, and now, Construction Management courses. Approximately 800-1000 students each semester.
- South Campus opened in 2019 in South Irving, TX. The campus houses an open-enrollment Early College High Schools, hosts a charter high school, and offers noncredit coursework in ESL.



#### North Lake College West Campus

- Opened 2000 in partnership with the Construction Education Foundation, after being located at the Central Campus since 1990.
- Approximately 1200 –1600 students per semester taking a mix of credit and non-credit offerings.
- Program offers 12 certificates and 2 associate degrees, along with a wide array of industry certifications.
- The program has outgrown the 60,000 square feet of classroom and lab space, and has expanded to the North Campus.
- The Construction Management program is one of eleven programs at two-year institutions in the U.S. accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE).
- The NLC-CEF partnership provides training for 1,300 construction companies in North Texas, and individuals graduate with an industry certification and a DCCCD certificate or degree.



#### North Lake College/ Construction Education Foundation Partnership

- Original partnership began in 1978 between NLC and Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) and Associated General Contractors (AGC).
- CEF was formed in 1996 as the training arm of the industry and has been our partner since then.
- Partnered to design and equip the current West Campus facility that opened in 2000. Industry donated the equipment and finished out the labs.
- We continue to partner with the industry to design and open the NLC Construction Sciences Building, which is scheduled to open in the spring of 2021.



## Other Partners in the Workforce Training Program

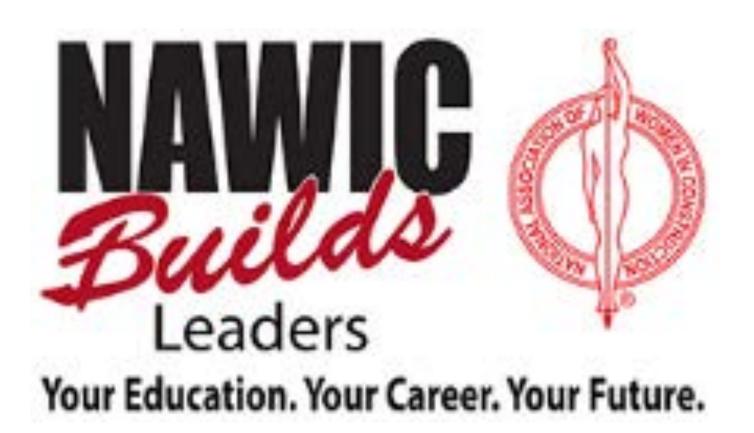












#### North Lake College Degrees

AAS in Construction Management

AAS in Construction Technology

AAS in Electrical Technology

#### **CEF Certifications**

Core (Survey of foundation Construction Skills

Electrical OSHA 10

OSHA 30

TCEQ Backflow TCEQ Water Treatment

**EPA Refrigerant Recovery** 

TDLR Apprentice Management

**Sheet Metal** 

Pipefitting Plumbing

Carpentry

First Aid/CPR



#### North Lake College Certificates

Commercial Carpentry

Commercial Electrical

Residential Building/Contractor

**Commercial Plumbing** 

Commercial HVAC

Pipefitting

Commercial Masonry

Field Engineering

Welding

Surveying

Residential Carpentry

**Supervisory Training** 

## Degrees and Certificates Currently Offered



# What is the current average age for Skilled Craft Professionals (All Trades) in the U.S.?

25 years old

35 years old

45 years old

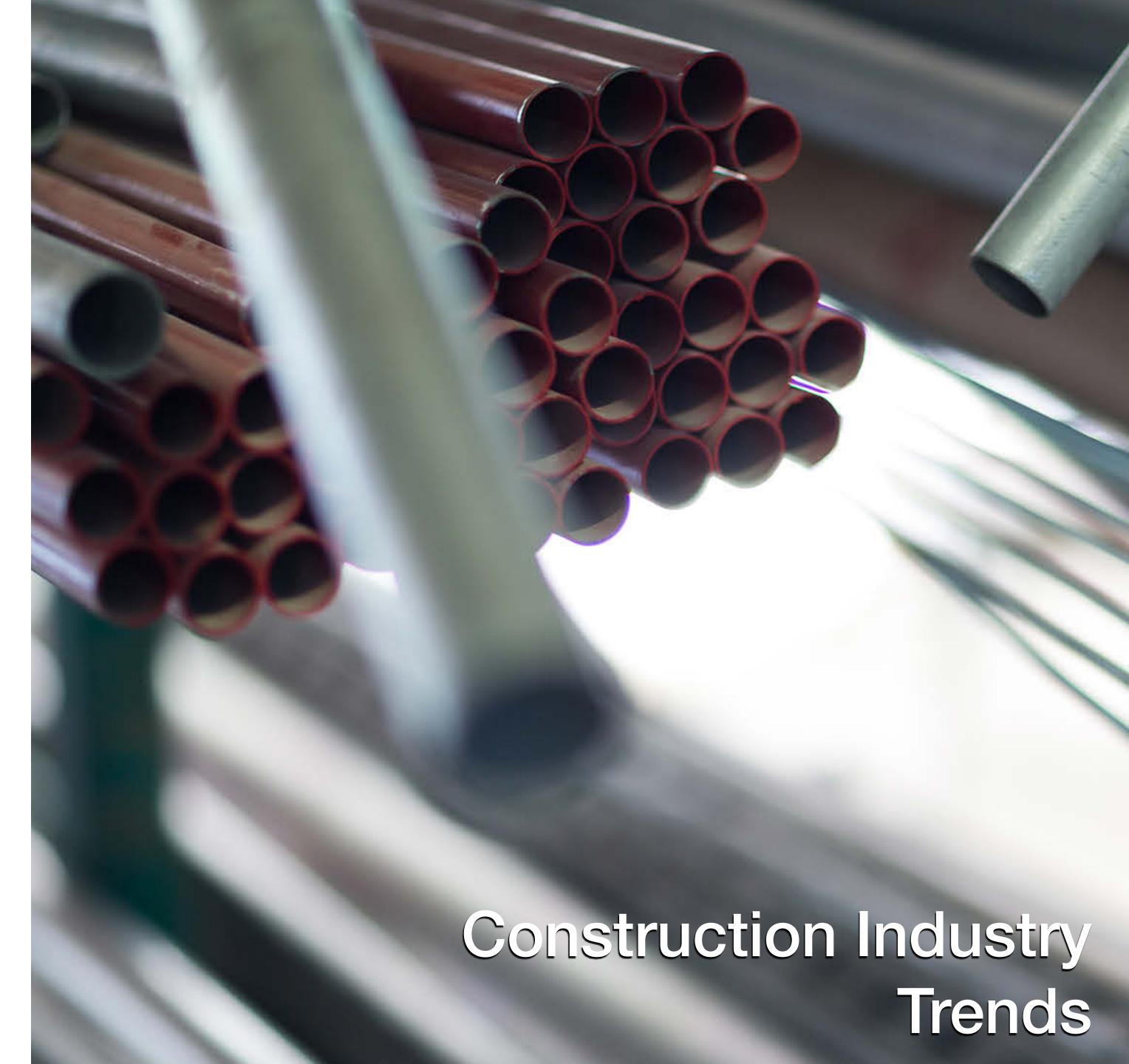
None of the Above

The Correct Answer is...

D—None of the Above

The current average age for Skilled Craft
Professionals in the U.S. is 51 years old!

...National Center for Construction Education and Research



# In the last 5 years, how much average construction cost escalation have you seen on your projects Per Year

Less that 1%

1-2%

2-3%

3-4%

4-5%

5% or More

 For the 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year skilled trades are ranked among the TOP 5 hardest jobs to fill.

...The ManPower Group

 The average age of a person entering into professional skills training is 29 years old.

...U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

 By 2030, 41% of skilled craft professionals will be retired from ALL crafts

...U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

 "Nearly half of what will be our built environment in 2030 doesn't exist yet."

...The Brookings Institute

 84% of commercial construction companies surveyed in Texas reported having difficulty finding skilled craft professionals.

... Associated General Contractors, Dallas Morning News, August 28, 2019

 In 2023, The United States will have a shortage of 1.5 million skilled craft professionals.

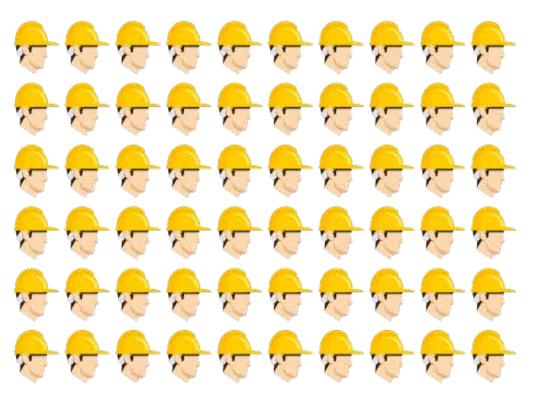
...National Center for Construction Education and Research





Construction occupations are projected to grow

from 2014 to 2024.



The construction industry needs

craft professionals every year to keep up with expected demand.

Top construction skills mentioned in **DFW** area job listings in the last six months include:



Project Management

Repair

Scheduling



Construction Management



OSHA



Inspection



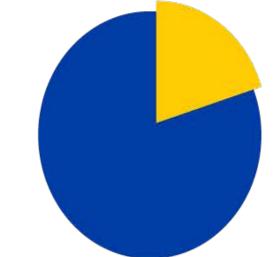
Electrical



Estimating



Plumbing



Globally

of employers are having trouble filling jobs, and for the 4th consecutive year, Skilled Trades Workers are the hardest jobs to fill.

The largest occupation gaps projected over 10 years for the DFW region include:



Carpenters (\$34,300)



Electricians (\$44,000)



Plumbers & Pipefitters (\$43,000)



Construction supervisors (\$64,900)

of the skilled construction industry workforce is projected to retire in the next four years.

Sources: DCCCD LMI data; NW Construction Illustrated, 2016; Dept. of Labor Statistics, 2016; Manpower Group, 2015.

 87% of millennial rate career growth and opportunity as important.

...National Center for Construction Education and Research

• "27% of people with post-secondary licenses or certificates ~ credentials short of an Associate's Degree - earn more than the average Bachelor's Degree recipient..."

...Harvard Graduate School 2011 Pathways to Prosperity

7/10 jobs require less than a 4 year degree.

...National Center for Construction Education and Research

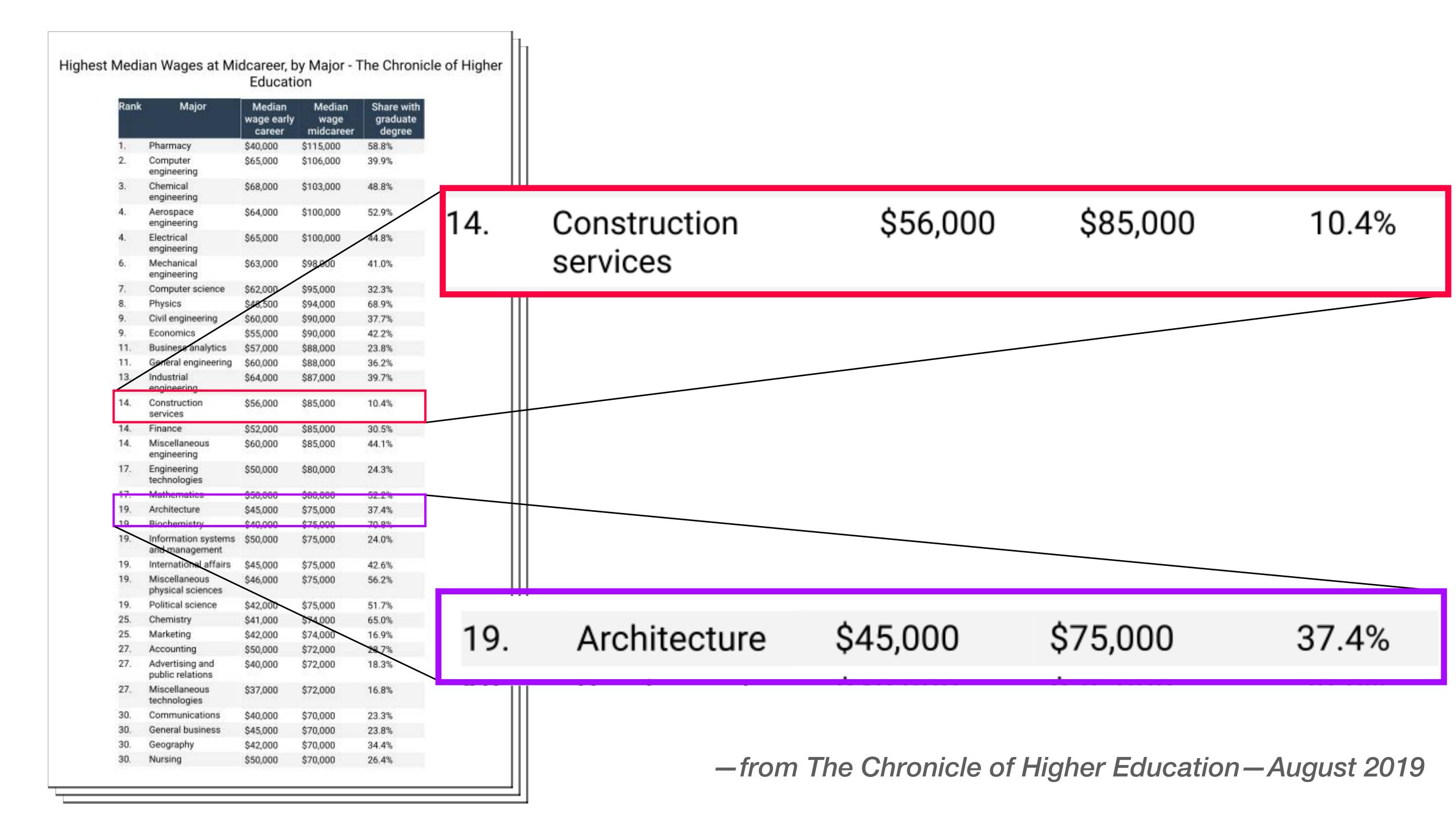
 Craft Professionals make \$9,835 more annually than recent college graduates on average.

...BuildYourFuture.org

• "Nationally, outstanding student loan debt sits at \$1.52 trillion, making it the second largest form of consumer debt trailing only mortgages. On an individual scale, the average borrower from the Class of 2018 received their diploma and left campus with \$28,565 in student loan debt..."

...Forbes





#### **CEF Industry Partners**

















































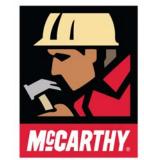






































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#### In Kind Donations







































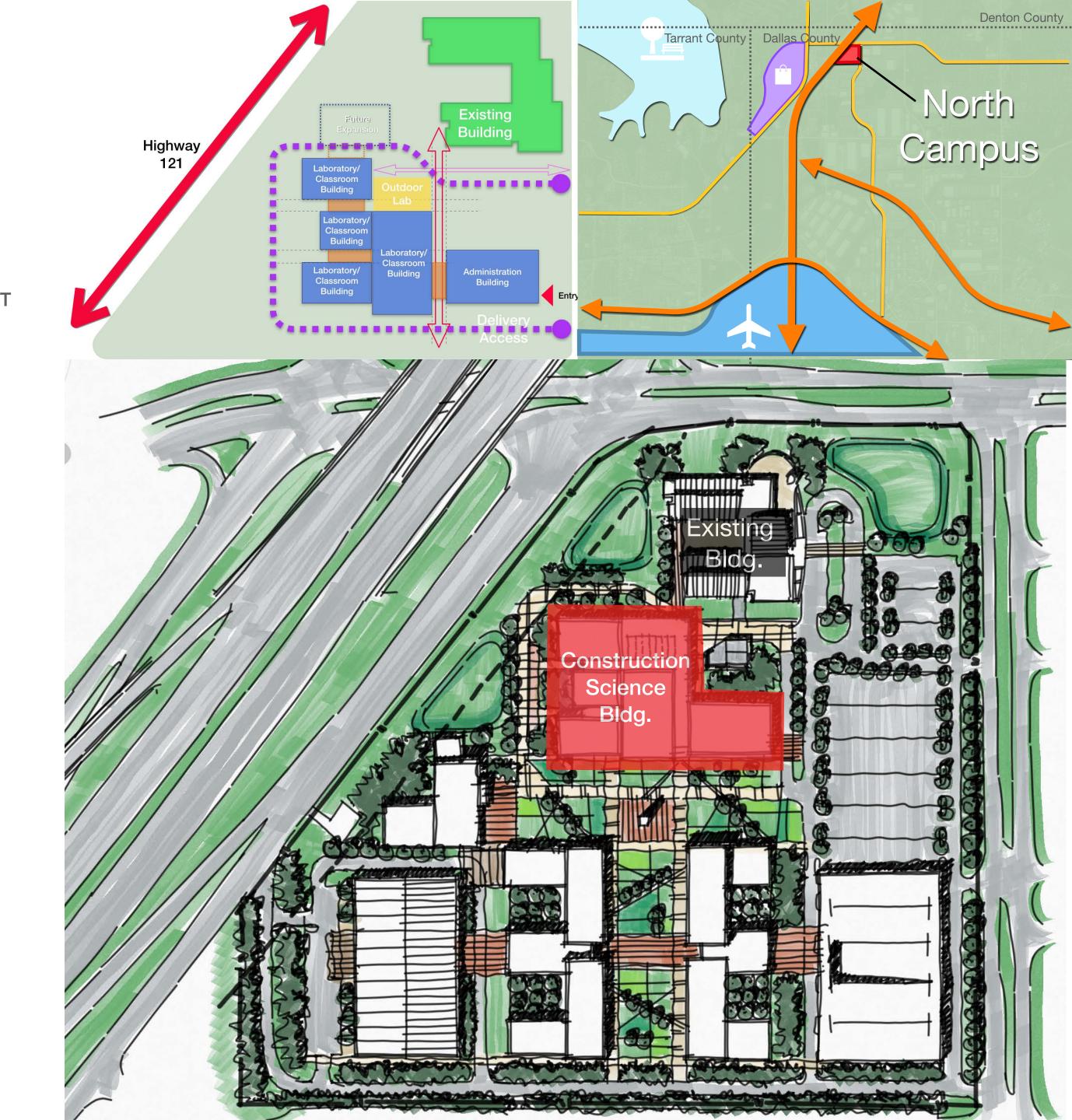
#### **Current Facility**

- 60,000 SF in rented facility
- All trades share the same space thus growth is constrained
- Space modification are restricted because the building isn't ours which hampers flexibility
- Wasn't designed to accommodate the instruction that is delivered there (it was a warehouse)
- No space for outdoor laboratory
- All trades share the same space
- Lease is ending in January 2021



#### North Campus Site

- 97,500 SF planned
- 126,651 cars pass site daily on Highway 121 ...2018 figures TxDOT
- 34.4 Acres planned for future campus
- Campus sits near the intersection of 3 counties.
- Chance to elevate the image of the Workforce Training program.









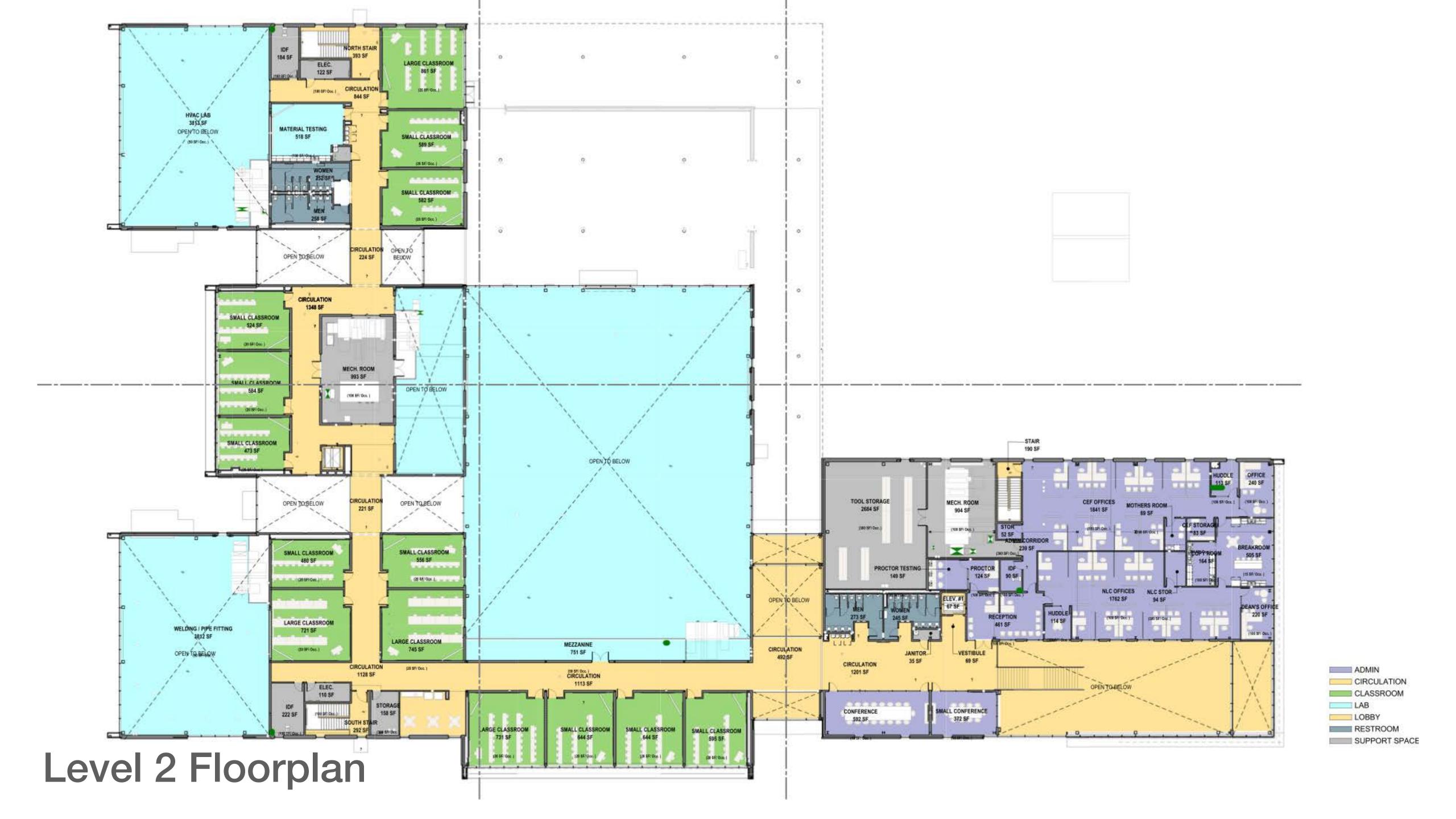


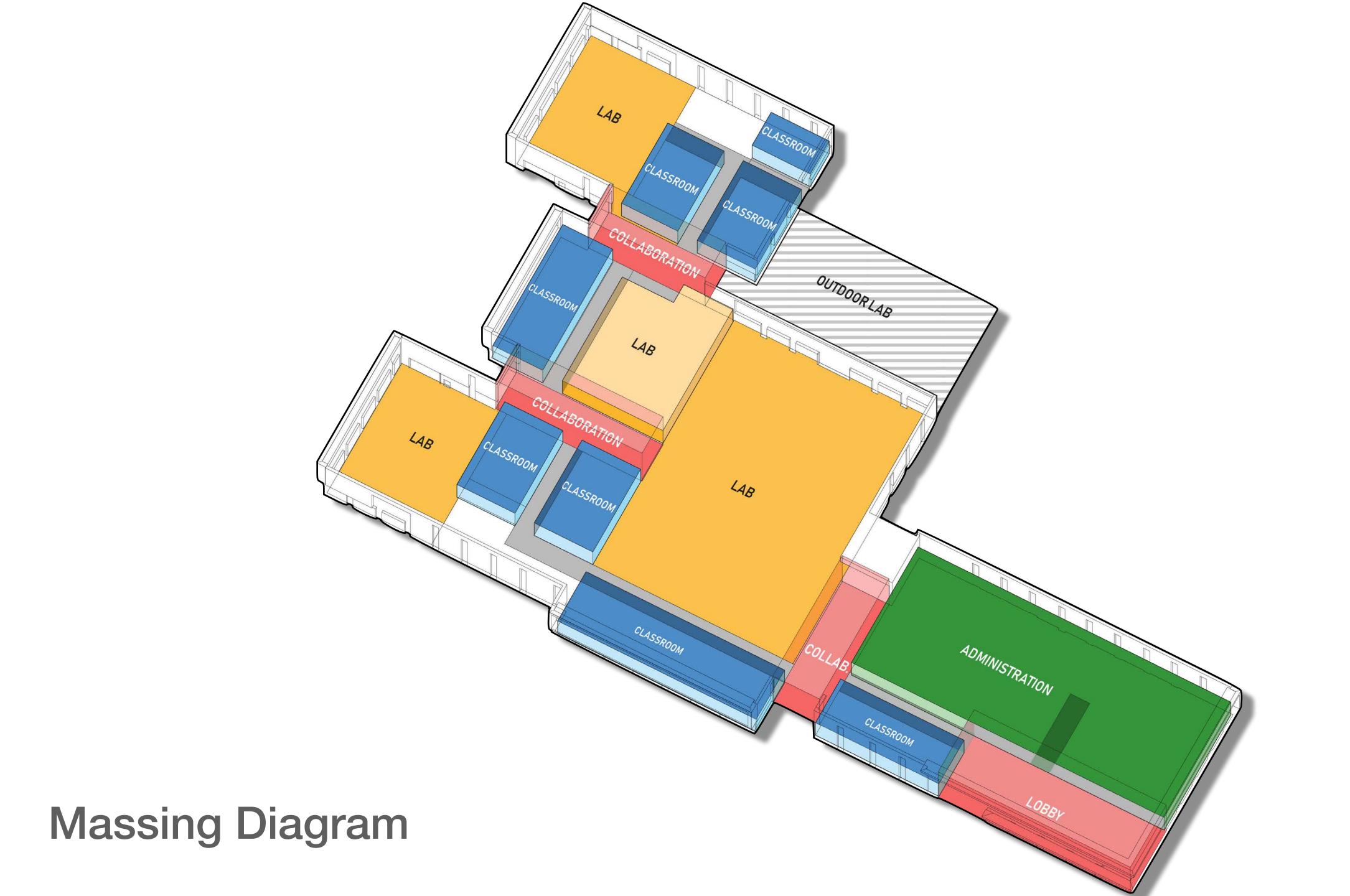
View From Highway

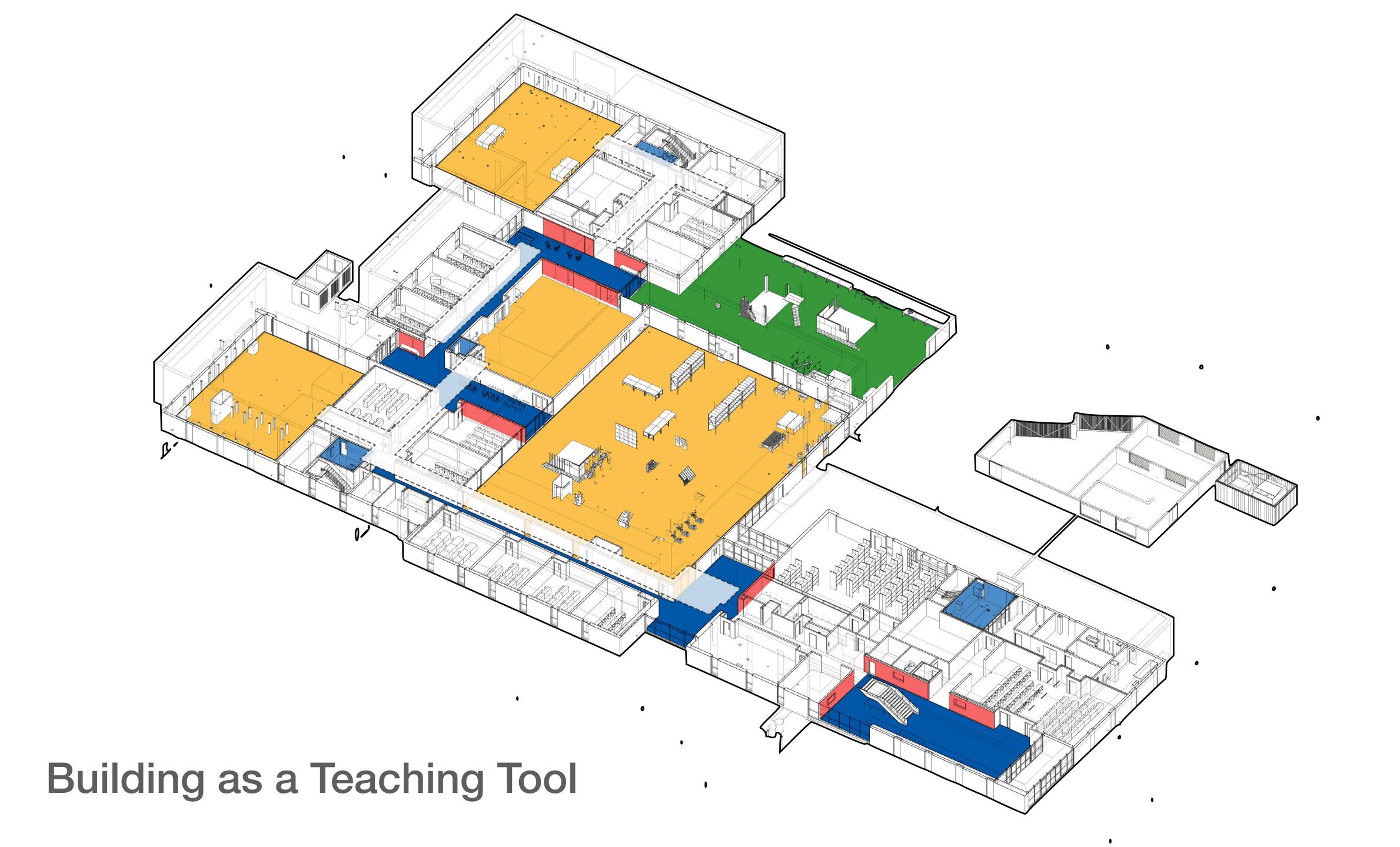
























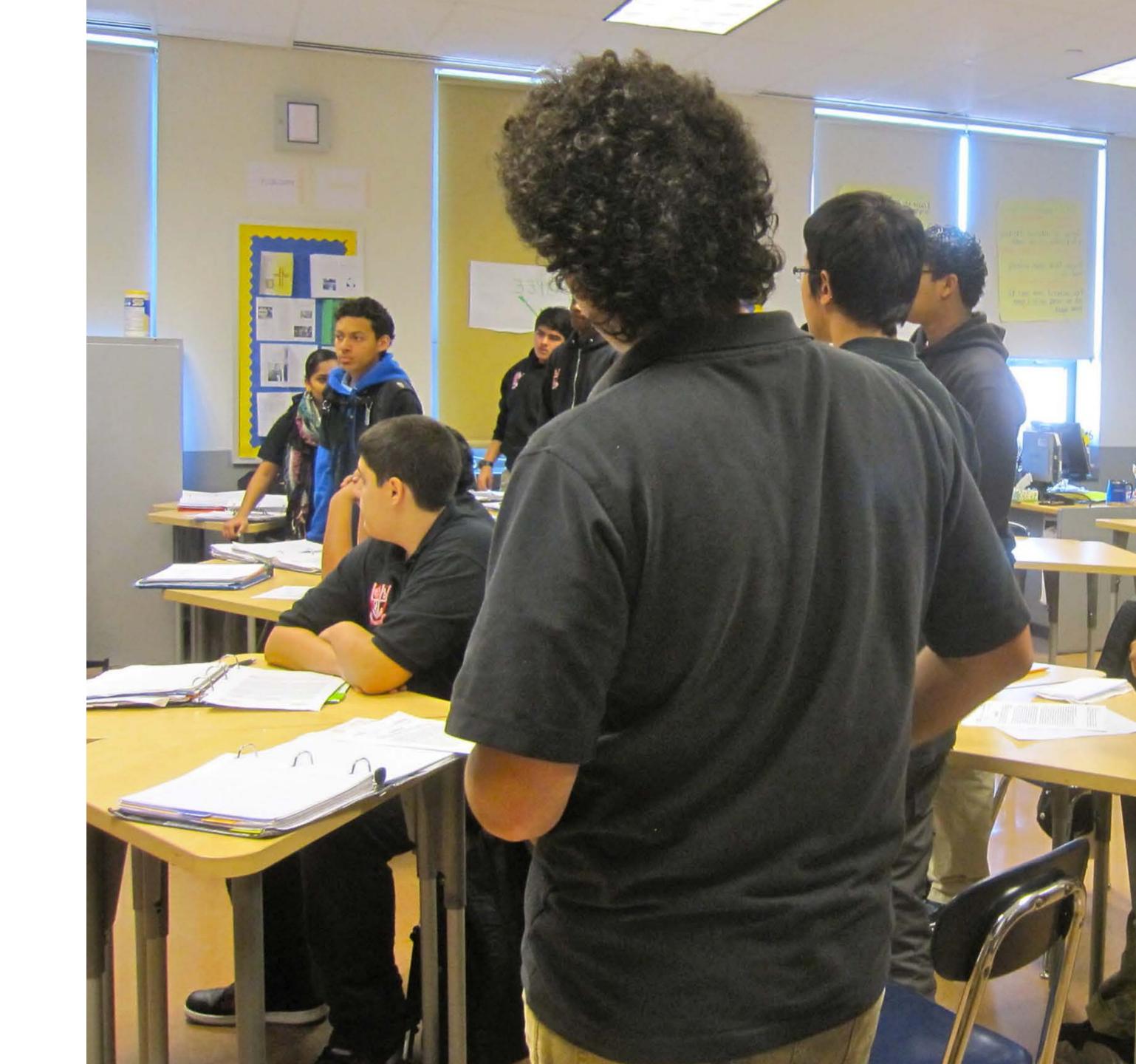






## North Lake College P-Tech Program

- New audiences in early college high school model, P-Tech (pathways in Technology) in which students receive their high school diploma and an Associates of Applied Science at the same time.
- Expanded opportunity to provide both industry certifications and college degree or certificates at the same time.
- First class of juniors are on-site after their first two years at their high school.
- Two additional ISD's are in their "planning year" for a P-Tech in Construction.















**Local School District Partners** 











Universities where graduates have transferred for 4 year degrees

























































































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Companies that send their employees for training

## Does your institution currently offer any industry specific non-degreed certificates

Yes

No

