

***NJCCT and the Newly Re-Invented Liberty Science Center  
A Partnership in Learning***

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Two very different tools used to educate: hard hats worn by Union Carpenters and rolling educational carts (referred to as *Carpenter Carts*), designed and built by Union Carpenters and Contractors. Each share a common purpose: to broaden minds and enlighten children and adults alike. The NJ Carpenter Contractor Trust is pleased to announce its partnership with the Liberty Science Center (LSC) as its doors re-opened July 19<sup>th</sup> after a dramatic 22-month re-invention.

Walking through the doors of the science center, one cannot help but look to the left and be immediately drawn to *Skyscraper! Achievement and Impact*, the largest exhibit of its kind dedicated to the design, construction and influence skyscrapers have on our lives. Contained within this comprehensive educational experience, amid the towering steel girders, large-scale cityscape photographs and multimedia experiences, is an exhibit showcasing the people whose hard work, skill and dedication create these impressive structures. The “Safety Gear” exhibit features hard hats worn by Union Carpenters throughout their careers. With the push of a button, the construction experience comes full circle as each hat allows a glimpse into the lives and moments that have defined individual construction careers. This area creates an atmosphere that focuses the skyscraper exhibit on the skilled craftworkers who utilize their talents to create the formidable structures defining our cities. The pieces of the puzzle fall into place and it is clear that the impressive structures that dot our skyline exist wholly due to craftworker talents and skill.

Steps away from the “Safety Gear” exhibit stands Andrew Prasarn, one of the museum’s science educators, whose excitement rivals that of the schoolchildren visiting the museum. His excitement, however, is centered not on the displays surrounding him but on one of the five rolling education carts seen throughout the museum. “We were like children on Christmas Day,” says Prasarn of the arrival of the *Carpenter Carts*.

A mobile curriculum that includes topics such as surveying, water filtration and assisted technology, these carts will travel throughout the museum enlightening children and adults to different scientific and technical marvels. The *Carpenter Carts*, funded by NJCCT as part of the in-kind donation to the LSC, proudly display the union message and are designed to hold educational materials, props, computer equipment and safety equipment. After months of anticipation, the *Carpenter Carts*, created and built by Somerset Wood Products, the union millshop whose fingerprints are evident throughout the science center, are in place and ready for demonstration. Mr. Prasarn, who will educate attendees on the skill of surveying, is excited to give children the opportunity to try their hand at surveying and is hopeful this one experience will open their minds to the many interesting facets and opportunities within the construction field.

The Skyscraper exhibit represents a celebration of the construction industry, and NJCCT and LSC are thrilled to kick off this exciting partnership. As opportunities abound to reach a

previously untapped audience, this partnership will serve an important role in the future. Bus trips from the Science Center will introduce schoolchildren to the Kenilworth Training Center, providing students with a hands-on approach to the training a Union Carpenter receives. “Resident Scientists” in the field of carpentry will walk among the visitors in the LSC, answering questions and providing personal insight into the construction experience. Additional Union Carpenter programming is in discussion as a continuation of the learning experience for the Skyscraper exhibit. The possibilities are endless!

An enlightening educational experience for all age groups, the newly re-invented Liberty Science Center is an experience to share and to learn from, and the NJ Carpenter Contractor Trust is proud to be a partner in learning as this new era begins.