

Building a better workforce through education

Ironworkers from Local 229 are industry leaders in productivity, efficiency and work quality because they invest in education – not just with apprentices, but also with its management.

Most recently, Local 229's leaders were among the 1,000 ironworkers, contractors and managers attending a three-day business conference focused on strengthening business ties in one of the nation's iconic building trades.



Walter W. Wise, General President of the 120,000-member Iron Workers International, opened the 2014 North American Ironworkers/IMPACT Labor Management Conference by encouraging members and business partners to honor the union's past, keep safety a top priority, and stay abreast of technological innovation.

“We will not remain the best kept secret and untold story in America,” Wise said. “Our resume is the skyline.”

In addition to hundreds of ironworkers from across North America, 300 contractors and owners attended the “Victory through Leadership” conference. Programs and speakers covered a range of issues that affect major construction projects and infrastructure in the U.S. and in Canada, including:

- The growth of construction projects in Canada and in the U.S. Gulf Coast region
- The explosive demand for certified welders
- Developing and maintaining effective safety programs

The Ironworker Management Progressive Action Cooperative Trust (IMPACT), affiliated with the Iron Workers International Union, is a labor-management partnership designed to create work opportunities in the ironworking industry. IMPACT provides expertise in training, construction certifications, marketing, construction project tracking and bidding, insurance and Davis-Bacon compliance efforts.