FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Contact: Lynne Harris
202-266-8936 (o)
202-603-1183 (c)
lharris@hbi.org

AIR STUDY SHOWS HBI’S TRAINING REDUCES LIKELIHOOD OF REARREST

WASHINGTON — October 19, 2016 — Participation in HBI’s Pre-Apprenticeship Certificate Training (PACT) program lowers the likelihood of recidivism, according to a recent study conducted by the American Institute for Research (AIR). Contracted by the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice, HBI, a national leader for career training in the building industry, offers underserved populations job readiness, certified training, career connections, hope, confidence and long-term success. HBI’s deep-seated connections to the building industry and the value of the industry credentials that students can earn contributes to the success of the program.

“Our Five Steps of Service model is unique in the industry. We are committed to connecting, assessing, training, certifying and placing students in high-growth construction careers,” said HBI President and CEO John Courson. Our program at Highlands Youth Academy (HYA) in Avon Park, Fla., is one of hundreds across the country that demonstrates our success.”

HYA is a juvenile correctional facility, which requires all students to participate in vocational programming. AIR conducted research at HYA, including face-to-face and phone interviews with staff and HBI program participants. Research shows that the likelihood of returning to incarceration within the first six months after release is under seven percent, and that percentage is lower if the students get a job within the first six months after release and the lowest if they also earn the Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) certification.

The JAG certification is a stackable credential that participants can earn through HBI’s partner Jobs for Florida’s Graduates. Youth who earned a JAG certificate were the least likely of any group of HBI participants to be re-arrested and the least likely to return to confinement.

“The purpose of the [PACT] program is to give young people a chance to be employed and make good money, but, be employed at something they like to do and be good at it. It helps you to achieve that,” said a HYA PACT participant.

AIR also found that engagement with participants after their release and the focus on placement of jobs and education is critical. Researchers noted that nearly 80% of the participants in PACT at HYA between January 2014 and May 2015 successfully completed the program.

“[HBI] gives you a lot of stuff to take out with you when you leave so you can get a job easily. I had all those certificates and my resume…I was able to go out and within three weeks…I got that maintenance job…because of the stuff I learned from them,” said a HYA PACT participant.

About HBI
HBI is a national nonprofit that provides training, curriculum development and job placement services for the building industry. With job placement rates at over 80 percent for graduates, HBI training programs are taught in local communities across the country to at-risk youth, veterans, transitioning military personnel, justice-involved youth and adults, and displaced workers. Visit www.hbi.org for more information.