



# Home Builders Institute



hbi.org

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **New Harvard Study Supports Home Builders Institute's Emphasis on Career-Focused Education**

**Washington, DC – February 2, 2011** – A new "Pathways to Prosperity" report issued today by Harvard University's Graduate School of Education states that not all students need four-year college degrees. The report further recommends that the nation's education system take a more holistic approach that instead prepares students for viable careers – no matter what level of education is required. Data in the report notes that six in 10 Americans do not complete post-secondary degrees by their mid-20s, and only one in 10 earns an occupational certificate. Young people without any post-secondary training are at a significant disadvantage in the workforce, especially given the current economic climate.

Below is a statement from [Home Builders Institute](http://www.hbi.org) (HBI) President and CEO Fred Humphreys:

"This report validates what the Home Builders Institute has long advocated for – a change in the way our education system approaches career preparation for students. College is not the only option available, and we need to engage young people on pathways toward viable and promising and lucrative industry careers, including those in residential construction.

"We are currently working with career and technical schools, high schools and community colleges to help prepare students for careers in residential construction. The HBI approach includes [industry-developed curriculum](#) based on national skill standards. This approach is further bolstered by [industry certification](#), which identifies skill sets to important to employers. By linking students' studies to the skills necessary for apprenticeships and other entry-level jobs, we are providing them with the solid foundation they need to launch a career in the residential construction industry.

"As the economy emerges from recession, and we see new trends toward green and energy efficient building practices, our industry needs highly skilled workers. We hope that educators, counselors and parents will take notice of this report and change the way they view and approach career-focused education."

### **About Home Builders Institute**

Home Builders Institute, the workforce development arm of the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), is dedicated to the advancement and enrichment of education and training programs serving the needs of the housing industry. For more than 35 years, HBI has trained and placed thousands of youth and adults for careers in residential construction, ensuring that America has a skilled workforce today and for the future. HBI offers a range of education, training, job placement and curriculum development programs. For more information, go to [www.hbi.org](http://www.hbi.org).



The Workforce Development Arm of the National Association of Home Builders