Vendor Name
Vendor Company
Vendor Address

The Pennsylvania Petroleum Association (PPA) established a strategic plan in 2018 to significantly expand our workforce development activities. The creation of this plan was in direct response to our members' challenge of attracting, employing, training, and retaining skilled labor. These association efforts have resulted in creating a trade school (PPATEC) dedicated to our training activities, renovations of additional training space at our leased Middletown, PA facility, approval to operate as a state-licensed trade school, and the introduction of new curriculum geared towards developing individuals with limited field experience.

In the past 7 years the PPA has experienced year-over-year growth in our training activities. In 2024, PPATEC hosted over 175 technical training classes with over 2,000 students attending our programs. Most of the trade school activity comes from employed individuals who are sponsored by their employer to attend hands-on technical training to strengthen their skill set. The majority of employers who utilize PPATEC are based out of the Mid-Atlantic region, but the school also attracts companies throughout the United States. PPATEC also hosts a state-licensed and GI Bill® approved program to offer a gateway for newly employed individuals or non-employed individuals to enter the industry. Since the program inception in 2022, there has been over 30 individuals who graduated this program and received employment opportunities through our membership companies.

In September 2024, the PPA purchased a 2.2-acre property with a 12,000 square foot building that will serve as the future home of our trade school headquarters. The driving force behind this $2.5M investment is to significantly expand our hands-on training capacity. The new property is set to open in summer 2025 and will feature five (5) live-fire training labs, three (3) classrooms, and extensive outdoor space. In total, the new property will more than triple PPATEC's training capacity once fully operational. PPA's association leadership is making this investment to take a bigger role in providing workforce development solutions that impact our collective industry. Our association is committed to being at the forefront of addressing this challenge in the upcoming decades.

We would like to offer an opportunity for the prominent vendors in the HVAC and energy industry to contribute to this initiative through the introduction of the Founder's Circle. Enclosed you will find a flyer that outlines the structure and financial aspects of the concept. The intention of the Founder's Circle is to provide exposure opportunities for our key partners but more importantly inject stakeholder capital into the project over a three year that will enhance the buildout of the new facility.

It is our hope that shared stakeholder investment will be used to enhance the buildout of our trade school, which will ultimately make a positive impact on all corners of our industry. Your investment will help strengthen the technical skills of our workforce and build a viable pathway for more individuals to enter the HVAC and energy industry.

Enclosed are a list of PPA members who rely on PPATEC as a partner in supporting their training and workforce development needs. These companies have voluntarily signed onto this letter to request your consideration and financial support to join the PPATEC Founder's Circle. Thank you for your considering this important endeavor. Please contact Ted Harris, PPA Executive Vice President, by email tharris@papetroleum.org or by phone at (717) 578-4026 if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Bruce Spiridonoff, S.H. Tevis & Son
Jim Barber, Link Service Heating & Cooling
Mike Hinds, Hinds Energy
Kate Duffey, D. E. Duffey & Son