



**WINTER 2010**

**THE LECET LETTER**

Ohio Laborers-Employers Cooperation and Education Trust

**A new chapter opens for Ohio LECET**



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# About LECET

In 1995, the Laborers' District Council of Ohio and the Ohio Contractors Association laid the groundwork for Ohio LECET. The concept was one of cooperation — that Laborers and Union Contractors had to find ways to promote the highway construction industry and the role played by Union contractors and Union Laborers.

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# THE LECET LETTER

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## John C. Hughes, Jr., New Director for Ohio LECET



**John C Hughes, Jr.**

A new year brings a new director to Ohio LECET. After 13 and one half years on the job, former LECET Director Rich Murray

accepted an offer from Governor Ted Strickland to serve as Executive Director of the Ohio School Facilities Commission (OSFC). John C. Hughes, Jr. moves over from the statewide apprenticeship program to take over the LECET director position. "I'm honored that LECET's Board of Trustees selected me for this post," said John.

Rich Murray has moved to an office important to the union construction industry. The OSFC administers the state's comprehensive Kindergarten through 12th Grade public school construction program. The agency helps school districts fund, plan, design, and build or renovate schools with an annual construction budget of approximately \$1 billion.

Asked about his new role, Rich replied, "LECET's labor-management focus has been a training ground for what I do now. Quality and safety is our everyday goal. In that, we need experienced tradesmen and women, and we need contractors committed to their product and to their workers."

"Rich left me a huge void to fill," John said about his predecessor Rich Murray, "along with a Board of strong union and contractor members, he helped shape LECET over his years on the job. I am looking forward to building on the foundation he left behind."

### John brings experience to the post

New LECET Executive Director John C. Hughes, Jr. began his career with the Shelly Company in 1990 and has worked in all aspects of road construction, particularly traffic control. As an active Local 530 member, he came up through the LIUNA ranks, serving as a district council delegate, Local 530 president, instructor and

statewide apprenticeship coordinator, before taking on this new assignment.

From 1998 to 2005, John was an instructor at the Laborers' Training Center and during this time, he saw the value of labor-management cooperation. "Our union and contractors value training and work together to encourage members to take advantage of our state training center. While teaching at the center, I saw members become more efficient workers for employers and learn a variety of skills that kept them working." John's appreciation of the joint commitment to training lead him to accept the role of Statewide Apprenticeship Coordinator in 2005. In this role, he worked to create a statewide apprenticeship program in road construction.

John sees his new role as executive director as expanding his labor-management experience from training to other important goals, such as prevailing wage enforcement. The Ohio LECET fair contracting staff works hard to bring prevailing wage violations to light, "keeping non-union contractors honest levels the playing field and helps our contractors win jobs. Managing this effort is a top priority for me as director."

John also understands that the more construction end-users, especially government agencies, know about the cost-effectiveness and the local economic benefit union construction provides, the more work our contractors will win. "Telling our story is important, union construction can't be the best kept secret anymore, we need to tell the public directly why building union is the best."

## Ohio Highway Guy wins National AGC award



Chapter Public Relations Awards were given this year at Association of General Contractors' (AGC) 90th Annual Convention in San Diego. Our own "Highway Guy" and the Ohio AGC won the Best Construction Futures Education Program award.

In two years, the Ohio Highway Guy program has reached more than 12,000 high school students to deliver the message that the construction industry is a great place to work and build a career, while also working in a profession that is integral to society.

The program is funded by the Ohio AGC, the Ohio Construction Information Association, Operating Engineers Local 18 and Ohio's Construction Craft Laborers. The Highway Guy, actually industry communications expert David Finley, helps students understand that careers in the industry are attainable, sustainable and desirable.