

SITTING IN

Local partnerships are vital for Medford's development

By **Jeff Sullivan**

Business manager, IUPAT DC 35

Partnerships between labor unions and local communities are quintessential to development. As a leading building trades union in the region, Painters Union District Council 35 is committed to the future of Medford and its communities. That's why we're a longstanding partner of Medford Vocational Technical High School. Over the years, our work together has provided opportunities for economic prosperity and family-sustaining career paths to our youth. In return, students who graduate go on to work on the roads, bridges and buildings that define our communities.

Our recent work together on their new robotics lab, which will be unveiled in the upcoming months, is an example of this collaboration. More than 33 apprentices from District Council 35 volunteered over two weeks in November to paint the renovated space and bring it to life.

However, our work's impact reaches far beyond the beautiful space we helped create. Countless careers of Medford's future leaders will be shaped in this lab. Together, students will learn and innovate new technologies that will transform the city. We're proud to have contributed to this space.

Our commitment to Medford's communities and its people is unwavering. In 2018, we partnered with Medford VoTech to provide expert paint and finishing services for Bistro 489, which includes the school's culinary arts lab and restaurant. This lab, much like the new robotics lab, serves as a starting point for a lasting career in the hospitality industry.

Our partnership, however, is not limited to revitalizing the school's state-of-the-art labs. During the renovations, we invited students to observe, have hands-on informational training with our apprentices and learn about careers in the trades, helping to teach them about

the many opportunities available after graduation. We plan to continue this partnership with the school by providing guest speakers and coordinating future site visits for the students.

As a leading building trades union in the area, we're powered by community partnerships. Whether it is spearheading a career in robotics engineering, bringing new life to community spaces or creating opportunities for our youth, IUPAT District Council 35 is committed to bettering our communities and building our future.

If you know someone who is thinking of life in the trades after high school, introduce them to a career in the trades through Medford VoTech's diverse skill-based programs.

Jeff Sullivan is the business manager of the International Union of Painters and Allied Trades District Council 35 (IUPAT DC 35), covering Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont.