

I champion Albany public schools because...

The opportunity:

"Our objective in working with the City School District of Albany is to get kids to stay in school and see construction as a viable career path. According to the U.S. Department of Labor, there is a diminished rate of labor force growth and a shrinking pool of qualified workers projected for the building industry. Looking to reverse that trend, Turner Construction created a program called YouthForce 2020 that would give middle school students at North Albany Academy real-world experience by showing them the many facets of the of the construction industry from the inside.



Larry Tune
Project Engineer
Turner Construction, Albany

"The program promotes leadership skills, encourages young people to stay in school and seeks to increase the number of minorities and women working in the construction industry for the 21st century. Working with the district, we're trying to foster a greater understanding of such a vast field to show young people that it's not all about hammers and bricks. Once you get in, there are many different directions you can take."

The achievement:

"The curriculum we developed for YouthForce 2020 will provide North Albany Academy students in grades 6-8 exposure to fields such as civil, electrical and mechanical engineering, and architecture. We're in their classroom for two days a month spending a lot of time with the students, first going over the curriculum and then conducting a group activity that gets the children involved.

"We point out things that they might see every day and might not be thinking about it in terms of what goes into putting a project together. In one class, we asked students to figure out the square footage and cost per square foot of Colonie Center, getting them to think about the involvement of architects, engineers and construction crews in order to make it happen. What we are trying to do, and which goes along with other things the district is doing, is to increase students' awareness of the world by giving them real-life tangible experiences to draw upon and learn from."

Larry Tune is a project engineer at Turner Construction. He is the information and administrative link between all parties in a construction project. He also assists the project superintendent in evaluating, coordinating and distributing information and authorizations necessary to construct the project on time, within budget and to required high standards of quality.

Mr. Tune holds an A.A.S. in business marketing and management from Hudson Valley Community College and is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in business management from SUNY Empire State College.

