



## **NEWS**

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### **GIFT LINKS UMES GRADS, HOMEBUILDING INDUSTRY**

PRINCESS ANNE, MD – In construction, success is having a good plan and strong materials. The National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) is investing in both with a gift to the University of Maryland Eastern Shore (UMES) to start an NAHB student chapter and provide promotional materials for the UMES Construction Management Technology program. The National Association of Home Builders, through its philanthropic arm, the National Housing Endowment, investing \$100,000 in UMES.

The grant will fund initiatives to enhance the program and the resources available to market it to promising students and to enhance curriculum content in residential construction. More importantly, it provides increased opportunities for CMT students to participate in external learning and recruitment programs such as NAHB national conventions. This participation will enhance not only the students' understanding of the home building industry but also engage them in a professional network that will help launch their careers.

“Our graduates are hired by area builders at an impressive rate,” said Department Chair Dr. Leon L. Copeland. “The goal of this program is to prepare well-educated professionals for challenging careers in the construction industry.” Dr. Copeland added that the Construction Management Technology program has been accredited by the American Council for Construction Education since 1991.

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Students in the program benefit from learning experiences that draw on the fields of construction technology, architecture and business administration to provide graduates **with** the tools to manage and supervise the entire construction process.

“This is a reflection of the larger initiative by President Thompson to enhance the quality of programs at UMES,” said School of Business and Technology Interim Dean Dr. Ayodele Julius Alade. “It will also provide for increased enrollment with continual quality improvement in instructions and graduation rates. With this gift, UMES graduates will help contribute to solving the increasing and pressing demands in the construction labor market and also to help contribute to the regional Home Building Association needs.”

The grant was made as part of the National Housing Endowment’s Homebuilding Education Leadership Program (HELP). The HELP initiative was begun to bolster college and university residential construction management programs around the country. The HELP program’s goal is to triple the number of college graduates entering the home building industry over the next decade.

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