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CASE STUDY

TECHNICAL EDUCATION FACILITY

OPERATING ENGINEERS 324 TRAINING CENTER





Located in Howell, Michigan, the Operating Engineers 324 Training Center expansion redefines what is possible in workforce development and safety training. This cutting-edge facility merges innovation, durability, and purpose to meet the evolving needs of today's construction and equipment operators.

Operating Engineers 324 Training Center embarked on an ambitious project in collaboration with Nucor Authorized Builder, Roncelli Inc., to construct a new training facility and indoor arena on their expansive 460-acre site in Howell, MI.

A sprawling 90,000 sf addition was designed to attach to the existing Construction Career Center, offering a state-of-the-art, year-round indoor training space where heavy equipment operators and technicians can train safely, regardless of weather conditions. The investment further solidifies Operating Engineers 324 as the industry's safest and most skilled workforce and stands as a testament to their commitment to excellence and innovation in training.

Seven Nucor pre-engineered metal buildings make up the addition, providing the training facility with classrooms, a mechanics shop, a storage area, and a truck wash bay station. The lean-to mechanics shop is equipped with advanced equipment, lifts, and cranes used during journeyman and apprentice training. Nucor helped design the addition around exposed battered

wall foundations that extend six feet above ground level, forming a fortress-like perimeter around the steel frame to defend against potential heavy equipment impacts, often expected when training apprentice-level operators.

A metal building was chosen for this project as it proved to be the most economical solution for achieving the 180' clear span and 38' clear height specified by the owner. The collaborative design process successfully fulfilled the owner's requirements, budget constraints, and project timeline. Nick Contesti, Organized Labor Liaison of Roncelli, says, "Our partnership with Nucor has been instrumental in the success of this project. Their innovative design and commitment to quality has helped us create a state-of-the-art training facility that stands as a true reflection of what can be achieved when two companies collaborate with a shared vision. Nucor's expertise in steel framing and commitment to excellence has ensured that this building will serve the needs of future generations of heavy equipment operators and technicians for years to come."



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