



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Labor Department and Carolinas AGC Formalize Partnership**

RALEIGH—The N.C. Department of Labor formalized a partnership with Carolinas Associated General Contractors at an alliance agreement signing ceremony in the Labor Building in Raleigh on Monday, March 22.

Labor Commissioner Cherie Berry welcomed officials from Carolinas AGC. Cynthia Mills, president and CEO, and Kenny Boggs, director of safety services, signed the agreement for Carolinas AGC. In addition to Commissioner Berry, other NCDOL signatories were Allen McNeely, director of the NCDOL Occupational Safety and Health Division, and Wanda Lagoe, bureau chief of the OSH Division's Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau.

“Carolinas AGC has been a leader in workplace safety and health,” Commissioner Berry said. “I am happy to formalize the good working relationship we have had with them to further promote safe and healthful workplaces in our state. Safety initiatives have to be embraced from the top down if we are to be successful reaching the workers on the front lines. This is true in any industry, but particularly in the construction industry, where so many of the workers are in the field.”

The alliance agreement formalizes the informal partnership NCDOL has had with Carolinas AGC for several years. The alliance will be directed toward coordinating more training events. Under the alliance, NCDOL and Carolinas AGC will work together to achieve certain training and educational goals, outreach and communication goals, and to promote a statewide dialogue on workplace safety and health.

“A behavioral safety approach is key to establishing a culture of safety,” Mills said. “There is a moment when an action by one or more employees leads to an incident. It is critical for us to understand near misses and those behavioral choices in order to prevent future incidents. Everyone has the right to go home at the end of the day.”

Carolinas AGC is the largest construction trade association in the Carolinas and is the nation's largest chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America. Carolinas AGC comprises over 2,600 member firms, including general contractors, specialty contractors and subcontractors, materials and equipment suppliers, and service providers.

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