FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Toree Paden, COE

Phone: 770-396-3898 ext.107

Email: communications@council.org

COE President Visits UA Local 290 College of Mechanical Systems & Technology During Presidential Leadership in Motion Tour

ATLANTA, GA — [October 14, 2026] — The Council on Occupational Education (COE) President and Chief Executive Officer Dr. Kirk A. Nooks visited UA Local 290 College of Mechanical Systems & Technology in Tualatin, Oregon, on October 13, 2026, as part of his Presidential Leadership in Motion Tour. The visit provided an opportunity to engage with institutional leadership and staff, explore the college's training facilities, and gain firsthand insight into its approach to preparing students for careers in the skilled trades.

During the visit, Dr. Nooks toured the institution's more than 100,000 square foot training facility, observing the equipment, instructional spaces, and resources supporting hands-on education in plumbing, steam fitting, and heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC/R).

The tour also included discussions with staff about the institution's training activities and the critical role of career and technical education in developing a highly skilled workforce to support the nation's evolving labor demands. Reflecting on the visit, an institutional representative shared that Dr. Nooks' most memorable reaction was, "This is incredible," as the college showcased its plumbing, steam fitting, and HVAC/R training activities and resources.

"What stood out to me was the level of investment in creating an environment where students can develop the technical skills and practical experience needed to succeed in their careers," said Dr. Nooks. "Institutions like UA Local 290 demonstrate the vital connection between quality career and technical education and workforce readiness. This is exactly why our Presidential Leadership in Motion Tour is so important. It allows us to see the work of our member institutions firsthand and better understand the impact they are making in their industries, communities, and beyond."

The visit concluded with an opportunity for discussion and reflection on the institution's training programs and educational resources. Through the Presidential Leadership in Motion Tour, Dr. Nooks continues to engage directly with COE member institutions, gain insight into their programs and practices, and highlight the diverse ways career and technical education supports workforce development across the country.

For more information about the Council on Occupational Education, visit www.council.org.

About the Council on Occupational Education:

The Council on Occupational Education is a leading accreditor for over 500 postsecondary occupational education institutions in over 40 states. With a commitment to quality and continuous improvement, COE works to assure quality and integrity in career and technical education. For more information about the Council on Occupational Education and its mission, please visit www.council.org

###