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**COMMUNICATING FOR AGRICULTURE  
Scholarship and Education Foundation**

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**CA PROGRAM RECEIVES DOL CERTIFICATION FOR APPRENTICE  
PROGRAM FOR WINE CELLAR WORKERS**

**First of Its Kind in the Nation**

FERGUS FALLS, Minn. – For the first time in the United States, the Office of Apprenticeship of the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) has certified the skill standards for a new apprentice program for wine cellar workers registered by the Communicating for Agriculture Scholarship and Education Foundation, according to Communicating for America (CA) president Wayne Nelson.

Communicating for America is the parent organization that includes the Communicating for Agriculture Scholarship and Education Foundation.

Nelson said this is part of a new apprenticeship program sponsored by CA that includes a horticulture program established in 2005 in partnership with the University of Minnesota at Crookston. He said that CA is working on Apprentice Skill Standards for this program as well as in equine and turf management.

“CA has provided young people around the world with learning, cultural and work experience in agriculture, horticulture, enology, equine and turf management (golf courses) since 1985,” said Nelson. “We thought it was time to give American students the same opportunity by forming the CA Apprentice Program in 2005.”

Greg Smedsrud, vice president of CA, who represented the organization during the certification process, worked closely with Napa Community College, Kendall-Jackson Winery, Constellation Wines, Cakebread Cellars, Château Montilena, Blackstone, Ferrari Carano, Shug, Clos Pegase and Ramey Wine Cellars. David Ramey, who is a CA board member and owns Ramey Wine Cellars in Heraldsburg, California, assisted in launching the apprentice skill standards CA submitted to DOL for approval and certification.

The result was the certification of skills standards that give aspiring wine cellar workers that the foundation to succeed.

“The cellar wine occupation will be added to the list of approved apprenticeship programs at the Office of Apprenticeship at DOL,” said Smedsrud. “Under this program CA and its industry partners will be eligible for technical assistance and coordination with other federal employment and training programs – Job Corps, Veterans Affairs and others – as well as funding from federal and state vocational education resources.”

“For this program CA receives some financial support from the CA Scholarship and Education Foundation, which is partially funded by CA members who host the international trainees and the domestic apprentices,” said Milt Smedsrud, chairman of the CA Scholarship and Education Foundation. “The CA Foundation will continue to seek additional funding to develop other skill standards for agriculture to promote the development of agriculture as a viable career opportunity in America.”

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