



**September 17, 2015**  
**East Providence, RI**

**Attendees included:**

- Governor Gina M. Raimondo
- President George Nee  
Rhode Island AFL-CIO
- Tim Byrne  
East Providence Pipefitters 51
- President Michael Sabitoni  
Rhode Island Building &  
Construction Trades Council
- Tony Pankau. Amgen

### Labor and Industry Work Together For Rhode Island

On Thursday, September 17, 2015 Rhode Island Governor Gina M. Raimondo toured the state-of-the-art Pipefitters training facility in East Providence, RI.

The event was hosted by the East Providence Pipefitters Local 51, the Rhode Island AFL-CIO and the Pharmaceutical Industry Labor - Management Association (PILMA).

The event was attended by representatives from Amgen, Eli Lilly & Co., Johnson & Johnson,

AstraZeneca, Merck, Sunovion, Biogen, the Rhode Island Building and Construction Trades Council, the Rhode Island IBEW Local 99, the Boston Heat & Frost Insulators Local 6, Roofers Local 33, and members of PhRMA.

The interactive tour, led by Local 51 Business Manager Tim Byrne, highlighted how the biopharmaceutical industry and labor work together in Rhode Island to build new facilities, stimulate job growth, encourage innovation, support the local economy and create life-saving cures.

***"This is an example of what great things can happen and how we can get people to work, when business comes together with labor comes together with government. That's what's going to get Rhode Island back on the move and get thousands of people back to work in Rhode Island."***

**-Governor Gina M. Raimondo**

### Life Sciences and Building Trades Invest in Rhode Island

The biopharmaceutical industry contributes significant economic resources to Rhode Island.

In 2012, **8,628 jobs** in Rhode Island were indirectly supported by the life sciences industry, and the industry generated over **\$2 billion** in state economic output in Rhode Island.

Training centers like the one in East Providence prepare skilled craftsmen and women to build efficient, state-of-the-art manufacturing facilities that help foster innovation in the industry.

The tour demonstrated why

biopharmaceutical companies build using union labor. "Labor [built our facilities] on time, safe, and on budget," said Tony Pankau, VP of Site Operations at Amgen. "But most importantly they did it flawlessly. That enabled us to have the competitive advantage against our competition."

To encourage medical innovation, trade unions **invest over \$1 billion annually**, at no taxpayer expense, to teach the latest techniques and skills to their workers.

As a result, building trades workers are trained and ready to build the facilities needed by the industry.



**Business Manager Tim Byrne explains the training capabilities of the facility during the tour of Local 51 in East Providence, RI.**