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## Prominent Tunneling Industry Experts Featured in Season 2 of SME Studios' *Jobs of Tomorrow*

*Flagship career docuseries unearths the fascinating possibilities and rewards of this essential sector*



One of humanity's most important technologies, tunneling has revolutionized the management and delivery of water and other essential utilities, and has transformed approaches to transportation and mining. In "[Boring Deeper into Tunnels](#)," *Jobs of Tomorrow's* first tunneling-focused episode, you will meet dedicated experts on the cutting edge of these advances.

In many regions worldwide, tunneling professionals are being called upon for the next wave of infrastructure projects making the world a better, more convenient and efficient place to live. This includes Los Angeles, where the L.A. Metro is currently working on a major expansion project to the Westside.

“You have all the elements of the symphony and you’re just making sure to direct in a way that you get a beautiful sound in the end,” said Kimberly Wilson regarding her role as L.A. Metro’s Deputy Executive Officer of Program Management for the Westside Purple Line Extension 1 (WPLE1) project. “While I might not play an instrument, I know how these instruments are going to work together.”

The tunneling industry offers a plethora of meaningful career opportunities both above and below ground. As our modern world continues to advance at a rapid pace, the workforce will require more tunneling engineers, geologists, contractors, administrators, managers and more.

“You get to see the earth from a perspective that nobody else gets to see it from,” said Ashley Heckman, Regional Manager at Aldea Services Inc., an engineering leader in the tunneling industry. “Being underground and seeing the world from that perspective is just the coolest.”

A career in tunneling also involves a multitude of fun and unique challenges, which can often be unexpected. According to many professionals, solving these challenges is one of the best parts of the job.

“If you go underground, you will have certain samples of what ground you will encounter, but at the end of the day, every day you could encounter something you didn’t expect,” said Steffen Dubé, President and General Manager at Herrenknecht Tunneling Systems USA, Inc., a global leader in the manufacture of tunnel boring machines (TBMs). “The spirit of us is being pioneers and we never know what we’ll encounter.”

SME Studios is currently releasing six brand new episodes of *Jobs of Tomorrow*, a docuseries spotlighting the exciting, high-tech and increasingly green world of tunneling and mining where multidisciplinary professionals come together to drive innovation in energy, infrastructure, transit and more.

Episodes and member profiles are available on SME Studios at [media.smenet.org](https://media.smenet.org). New episodes are being released biweekly through May 2024.

“[Boring Deeper into Tunnels](#)” is currently available online at SME Studios. Additional support for *Jobs of Tomorrow* came from Brooks & Nelson.

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## **About UCA**

The Underground Construction Association, a Division of SME (UCA) brings together tunneling's brightest and most dedicated professionals. Global association members advance their careers with world-class technical resources, educational programs, networking opportunities and professional development tools from UCA. Our members are focused on sharing best practices in safety, environmental stewardship and technological advancements. UCA. *Inspiring tunneling professionals worldwide.*