ATLANTA BUSINÉSS CHRONICLE

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BUILD GEORGIA AWARDS

Honoring stellar construction projects from the Associated General Contractors of Georgia's 600-plus member firms

he Associated General Contractors of Georgia's Build Georgia Awards celebrate top achievements in construction performance in the state in the past year.

Winning projects represent the best the construction industry has to offer by both general contractors and specialty contractors. Companies that produced the 83 winning projects overcame difficulties ranging from timeline and budget changes to material shortages and complex requirements and sites.

Eligible projects were completed on Georgia soil during calendar year 2022.

A panel of industry veterans chose the winners by the following criteria:

- Exceptional project safety performance
- Overcoming the challenges of a difficult project
- Innovation in construction techniques and materials

- Excellence in project management and
- scheduling
- Dedication to client service and customer care

Winner profiles are organized first by general or specialty contracting. General contracting winners are then organized by the gross commission revenue range of the company, project delivery method used, and type of construction. Specialty contracting winners are grouped by specialty type and project contract amount range.

AGC Georgia was slated to present the awards at its annual convention June 8-11 at the Omni Amelia Island Resort in Florida.

In this section, we also include a Viewpoint from AGC Georgia CEO Mike Dunham, a Q&A with construction firm executives on what is keeping them up at night and what they see ahead in the industry, and an article on how the construction industry is incorporating artificial intelligence. IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Building construction's workforce: Critical to meeting Georgia's economic development needs

By Mike Dunham, CEO, Associated General Contractors of Georgia, Inc.

arlier this year Gov. Brian Kemp reported Georgia gained 17,500 new jobs and over \$13 billion in new investments in just the last half of 2022. Reports like this make it clear why Georgia continues to be the top state for business. As a long-time advocate for commercial construction, I commend state leaders for embracing strategies that build on years of successful economic development. With each announcement of a new plant being built, new jobs moving here, or a new company opening an office, all industries benefit.

For investment dollars to pay dividends, significant involvement is required from the industry. Without contractors building the buildings and providing infrastructure, companies looking to call Georgia home will not succeed. The demand for services from the private market, the medical community, the university system, school boards, and cities and counties is often more than contractors can fulfill in desired time frames. However, the stress of bringing in more large-scale businesses only compounds the existing workforce shortage. So, who can we count on to continue building Georgia when our workforce is aging, and most students are not being exposed to construction careers?

As Georgia sets new records in economic development, it's imperative for industry and state leaders to partner more than ever to bolster construction workforce development.

A January 2023 survey conducted by AGC of America



contractors will hire more personnel this year.

This is 7% higher than the average for contractors in all other states. Nearly all Georgia respondents said they increased pay and benefits in 2022, yet 79% consistently struggle to fill all positions.

Adding to the urgency, the Construction Labor Market Analyzer reports that Georgia needs 338,000 additional skilled construction workers by December 2026 to sustain current growth. Contractors recognize their #1 issue - developing a sustainable pipeline of talent - and they are on the front lines of finding solutions but need the help of state leaders.

ion

AGC Georgia members consistently spend time with legislators to educate them on the need for appropriating more funds to expand industry-approved curriculum in Georgia schools. We are also sharing the benefits of providing funding for one-time equipment grants which lead to more certified high school construction programs. Our team was successful in working with state leaders to earn the High Demand Career designation for construction to broaden postsecondary education opportunities. And, we've learned, it's vital to introduce students to careers earlier than high school. To that end, we advocate for additional funds to open construction programs in the elementary and middle schools that feed into high school programs.

We worked with the General Assembly to pass the Creating Opportunities Needed Now to Expand Credentialed Training (CONNECT) Act. This legislation allows industry to provide input on what curriculum is taught to ensure skills needed in the marketplace are met.

AGC Georgia partners with members to host eight Skills Challenges throughout the state. During the 2022 series, more than 1,000 high school construction program students competed in carpentry, electrical, plumbing, masonry, and welding. Another 1,200 students attended as observers to learn more about careers in construction from exhibiting professionals. The Skills Challenge series has raised over \$1 million from construction firms interested in building their talent pipeline. Proceeds are shared with



MIKE DUNHAM CEO AGC Georgia

competing construction programs to help instructors buy materials and tools to enhance learning experiences.

Georgia is in a great position to continue setting economic development trends and our community is working to help contractors meet the growing construction demands. We encourage all teachers, parents, coaches, business leaders, and everyone in a position to make a positive impact on a young person to learn more about the wide variety of construction careers. Regardless of whether a young person wants to attend college, technical college, begin an apprenticeship or enter the workforce upon graduation, the opportunities in construction are endless and the pay is extremely competitive. We need the best of the best as a part of the commercial construction industry to keep up with Georgia's economic development.

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Construction confronts AI 18-19

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT IS GOOD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

AGC Georgia partners with commercial contractor members to host high school construction Skills Challenges. These events are in Augusta, Columbus, Gainesville, Macon, Marietta, Moultrie, Rome and Statesboro. During the 2022 series, more than 1,000 students representing 90 high schools competed in carpentry, electrical, masonry, plumbing and welding. Another 1,200 students attended as observers to learn about career paths from exhibiting industry professionals.



Scan to view photos of high school students showing off their construction skills or visit **bit.ly/40kHBS0**



Scan to view video highlights from 2022 AGC Georgia Skills Challenge Series or visit **bit.ly/3B7oX4s**







Associated General Contractors of Georgia, Inc.

www.agcga.org



CARROLL DANIEL CONSTRUCTION CO. Gainesville Renaissance

This three-story mixed-use development located on the "fourth side of the square" in downtown Gainesville includes sculpted cast stone and tumbled red brick exteriors that blend with the historic area's character.



CHOATE CONSTRUCTION CO.

Hub for Community Innovation Augusta This project houses five nonprofits in two buildings and aims to catalyze revitalization in the historic Harrisburg and Laney Walker neighborhoods. The team accelerated the schedule 2.5 months to allow for a Masters-timed national announcement.



NEW SOUTH CONSTRUCTION CO. Nelson Street Pedestrian Bridge

This project replaced a bridge originally built 100 years ago in Atlanta's "Gulch" area, now named Centennial Yards. The 500-foot bridge spans five railroad tracks and splits between two historic buildings from Ted Turner Drive to Elliott Street, connecting Castleberry Hill to Downtown.



NEW SOUTH CONSTRUCTION CO.

The Cottrell Center for Business, Technology & Innovation at UNG This new building on the Dahlonega university campus includes cyber laboratories; data analytics labs; and classrooms for finance and logistics. Challenges included an extremely limited footprint adjacent to the main artery to downtown.



NEW SOUTH CONSTRUCTION CO. The Maverick

The 320-unit, wood-framed multifamily project at the intersection of the Southside Beltline Trail and Milton Avenue in Atlanta includes six buildings totaling 252,348 square feet plus a freestanding amenity building and parking on a 12-acre site.



BRASFIELD & GORRIE Georgia State University Convocation Center The 135,000-square-foot building in downtown Atlanta near GSU's Center Parc Stadium includes a 7,500-seat multipurpose arena, with a glass façade on one end providing a view of downtown; concession stands; classroom space; and sport medicine facilities.



CARROLL DANIEL CONSTRUCTION CO. Seckinger High School This \$92 million project in Buford involved constructing a four-story, 510,000-square-foot main school building and 20,000 square feet of athletic buildings on a challenging 100acre campus.



NEW SOUTH CONSTRUCTION CO.

Emory University's R. Randall Rollins School of Public Health Building III This new building on the northeast corner of Emory's Atlanta campus includes private offices, classrooms, conference rooms and interior and exterior event spaces.

RENOVATIO



NEW SOUTH CONSTRUCTION CO.

Delta Sky360 Club at Truist Park This project consisted of an 8,000-square-foot addition to the club and an overhaul of the existing lounge which includes two kitchens and two bars. The updated club, at field level behind home plate, holds up to 1.156 fans. The Atlanta Braves 2021 World Series win shortened the construction time.



BRASFIELD & GORRIE

760 Ralph McGill Office Towers

This project in Atlanta represents the

first phase of Brasfield & Gorrie's 760

towers totaling 485,000 square feet,

a six-level parking deck and a 3-level,

Ralph McGill development with New City

Properties. It includes two 11-story office

BATSON-COOK CONSTRUCTION

Uptown Renovation This phased upfit of the Lindbergh City Center development originally constructed in Atlanta in the early 2000s renovated the office amenity spaces, improved exteriors on three buildings and added hardscapes throughout the campus.



SNFS, A JOINT VENTURE Concourse T-North Extension at H-JAIA Before this project could extend the Atlanta airport's Concourse T with five new gates, contractors had to re-route the North Terminal Parkway and the Georgia Power ductbank and fiber communication network, rebuild the North entry and exit toll plazas, and reconstruct Fire Station 32, among other enabling work.



HOLDER CONSTRUCTION

Meta Data Center Campus This five-year phased project set on more than 400 acres in Social Circle included four data center buildings totaling 2 million square feet. Challenges included implementing complex MEP systems, phased turnover/occupancy of the different buildings, and material inflation. It was completed ahead of schedule.



JE DUNN CONSTRUCTION CO.

SCAD Chatham House Residence Hall The rehabilitation of this 70-year-old Savannah College of Art and Design dormitory – 147,000 square feet, 15 stories tall, housing 600 students and located in Savannah's downtown Historic District – came in on time and under budget.



HOLDER CONSTRUCTION Georgia World Congress Center Terminal Depot This project provided a new transportation terminal for buses, parking and ride share on the International Plaza of the GWCC in Atlanta, and included design for an alternate entry to the Red Parking Deck.



CARROLL DANIEL CONSTRUCTION CO.

Forsyth County Juvenile Court Building This 66,025-square-foot, three-story building in Cumming includes two courtrooms, conference rooms, administrative offices, sally port and holding areas. It incorporates natural elements and calming lighting.



A special thank you to our employees, clients and trade partners.

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OVER \$250M | DESIGN-BID-BUILD | NEW

KAJIMA BUILDING & DESIGN GROUP INC. Buford Commerce Park This project comprised of four speculative warehouse buildings totaling more than 1 million square feet for Crow Holdings Industrial also involved two ponds and a private road dedicated to

the city at project close.



NEW SOUTH CONSTRUCTION CO. Delta Air Lines Geared Turbo Tan Fnaine Shop This project transformed an underutilized cargo warehouse across from Delta's Technical Operations Center in Atlanta into a modern maintenance. repair and operations facility for Pratt & Whitney Geared Turbofan engines.

\$100M - \$250M | CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK | NEW



BALFOUR BEATTY Gwinnett County CSEC The new 24,530-square-foot

Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children Facility in Lawrenceville for human trafficking victims includes 26 housing beds; two intake beds; kitchen; classrooms; gym; medical, counseling and administrative space; and outdoor areas.



N PARRISH CONSTRUCTION GROUP

New Crawford County Middle/High School

This five-building, 165,000-square-foot project in Roberts included an advanced CTAE wing and competition gym and was completed on time and under budget.



BALFOUR BEATTY 14th+Spring Office Tower The contractor overcame complex underground utilities and extreme below-grade conditions to deliver Greenstone Properties' office tower in Midtown Atlanta four weeks early, safely and with cost savings.



MCCARTHY BUILDING COMPANIES INC. West Georgia Technical College - New Carroll County Campus The \$51 million, four-building campus and parking lot in Carrollton houses multiple functions including 16 programs, administration and faculty offices, student services, a library, and economic development support space.



BALFOUR BEATTY Novel Midtown Crescent Communities' 14-story residential tower sits atop an underground parking deck as part of a larger development and shares a zero-lot line with Georgia Power's highvoltage substation. The contractor was able to make accessible early some units, amenity space and the lobby



LEAPLEY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Kennesaw State University Carmichael Center Bookstore Renovation and Relocation

A complex 13,644-square-foot renovation and relocation modernized and doubled the space of the campus bookstore.



RALIN

Tanner Open Heart CVOR This 12-month project renovated the \$4.2 million. 5.660-square-foot Tanner Heart Center in Carrollton to include two cardio-vascular operating rooms, auxiliary sterile storage and support areas.



PARRISH CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Red Devil Hill Athletic Renovation The contractor worked as a team with Breaux & Associates Architects and Butts County School District to construct a new facility in Jackson to replace the former landmark Red Devil Stadium.



MCCARTHY BUILDING COMPANIES INC. Northside Atlanta 3rd Floor Surgery

Renovation The project added two new robotequipped operating rooms,

relocated an existing operating room. and renovated existing pre-op, operating room control desk, locker room spaces and the sim lab on the fourth floor to create new break room and office space.



PARRISH CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Morningside Elementary School Additions and Renovations Project This school in the Morningside Lenox Park neighborhood of Atlanta underwent a 91,057 square foot renovation and a 32.135 square foot addition of a gym, classroom and cafeteria building under a \$17.6 million GMP contract.

CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT AT RISK INTERIOR BUILDOUT \$100M - \$250M



LEAPLEY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Kimball International/Poppin Showrooms

The construction team built more than 13,600 square feet of non-adjacent interior space at Atlanta mixed-use building The Interlock to create new showroom and office space for the related brands, in collaboration with JLL, ASDISKY and owner reps.



LEAPLEY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

The Radco Companies This 7,854-square-foot buildout for the commercial real estate investment firm at Two Alliance Center in Atlanta's Buckhead neighborhood overcame complex issues involving custom millwork, specialty lighting and highend finishes.



LEAPLEY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Confidential Company

In this first-generation interior buildout in Atlanta for a confidential company, the firm collaborated with other contractors working on site, protected finished areas and creatively installed temporary materials to deliver under budget and two months ahead of schedule.



LEAPLEY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Confidential High Tech Company This project involved a 500,000 square foot buildout of first generation space in Atlanta for a confidential high tech company. The interior work across 16 floors included six interconnecting staircases, a commercial kitchen with multiple satellite serveries, and rooftop and workplace level terraces.

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PARRISH CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Graphic Packaging Warehouse Expansion This 208,000-square-foot addition to an existing 300,000-square-foot warehouse in Perry added 37 dock doors, a drive-in truck ramp, and interior office and support staff space. It incorporates automated forklift vehicles.



GILBANE BUILDING CO. Georgia Institute of Technology Campus Center Expansion and Renovation This multi-phased, multi-year project added more than 300.000 square feet to Georgia Tech's Campus Center through partial demolition, renovation, an addition and two new buildings



THE BECK GROUP Phipps Plaza Redevelopment The goal for this project was to maximize the potential of the site in the Buckhead neighborhood of Atlanta. It added a 152-room hotel and restaurant, a 13-story office tower and a five-story anchor building that houses a Life Time Fitness and a food hall.



THE BECK GROUP Emory Nursing Learning Center This 70,000-square-foot renovation in downtown Decatur encompassed four levels of a commercial office and branch bank location initially opened in 1962. It includes simulation and skills labs, classrooms, a student lounge and faculty and staff space.



MEJA CONSTRUCTION INC. Morrow High School

This two-and-half-year project in Ellenwood delivered a three-story, 340,000-square-foot main school building with a unique snake-like design and a gymnasium with a bowl-shaped façade, plus 6,000 square feet of sports fields and support buildings.



HOGAN CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Teamsters – Local Union 728 This Atlanta project included a singlestory steel Administration Building with a brick façade and twostory rotunda and a single-story pre engineered metal Union Hall joined by a canopy over part of the courtyard.



PIEDMONT CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Northside Senior Village In Macon, Piedmont built a 72-unit, energy efficient Earthcraft senior living facility adjacent to shopping, pharmacies, medical facilities, public transportation and recreation centers, despite long procurement times, complicated site preparation and an uncertain market.



JCI CONTRACTORS Bleckley County Primary School The new 91,000-square-foot modern primary school was constructed on the site of the former Blecklev County High School in Cochran. The primary school was among four projects JCI managed for the county school system.





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RW ALLEN CONSTRUCTION *Presbyterian Village*

In this Athens project, the contractor evaluated multiple structural and MEP options to determine the best balance of cost and facility longevity. It overcame pro forma changes that required \$11 million cost savings.



SHERIDAN CONSTRUCTION *Macon City Auditorium – Phase 1* This project renovated the historic building's world-record size copper dome and added catwalk lighting structures and bathrooms and concession areas in 75 days. The auditorium has hosted community events since 1925.



RW ALLEN CONSTRUCTION Clarke County School System Administrative Office The project involved adding an elevator to two existing three story buildings that were connected but whose floor elevations didn't line up.



PIEDMONT CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Augusta University Education Common's Small Group Classrooms The first phase of a multi-phase project

added eight new small group classrooms with a requirement for completion in time for the summer 2022 semester. Construction began in August 2021 and was completed in March 2022.



COLLINS AND ARNOLD CONSTRUCTION COMPANY LLC

Life Time Work The project transformed a 30,000 square foot former Publix grocery store into a shared workspace with more than 100 offices, conference rooms, nooks and quiet rooms with 25-foot open ceilings, two months ahead of schedule.



R.K. REDDING CONSTRUCTION INC. *Verida Corporate Headquarters* The construction of the new headquarters in Villa Rica for Verida, formerly Southeastrans, overcame pandemic-related supply chain issues, long lead times and other challenges, resulting in a 3-story, 82,000-squarefoot facility.



J.M. WILKERSON CONSTRUCTION CO. INC. Avondale Hills Apartments

In Decatur, the contractor performed ground-up construction including 240 apartment units in 5-story, wood frame buildings, 256,500 square feet, with a 5-story, 340-space pre-cast concrete parking garage.



J.M. WILKERSON CONSTRUCTION CO. INC. Oakland Cemetery Bell Tower Renovation

This Atlanta project included restoring exterior windows and the belfry, renovating the basement vault for an office, removing walls to create a new lobby event space, and adding a stairway and elevator.







Scott Contracting is celebrating 20 years!

Named to Atlanta's Top 25 Interior GC List for 18 years in a row







CONGRATULATIONS TO THE PROJECT TEAMS WHO BUILT THESE WONDERFUL FACILITIES



(C O N T R A C T I N G)

Batson-Cook.com





WEST CONSTRUCTION CO. Mingledorff Hall at Savannah Country Day School This academic facility was delivered under budget and two months ahead of schedule, overcoming a long preconstruction process, a mid-campus site and a hurricane.



GARBUTT CONSTRUCTION CO.

Madison City Hall Renovation This project restored the historic significance of the 1938 Colonial Revival building, which had lost some original features in past renovations, and transformed it into a modern municipal facility.



GARBUTT CONSTRUCTION CO.

Lakeview Primary School Renovation The 79,407-square-foot school building in Milledgeville was finished in 59 days, creating a vibrant, welcoming environment. Baldwin County's education special purpose local option sales tax funded it.



ALBION GENERAL CONTRACTORS INC.

Georgia Building Authority - DHS Health Building Renovation The update of two floors in the Department of Health facility in Atlanta allowed for relocation of staff, overcoming a revised earlier delivery date and material supply delays.



BARNSLEY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Inspire Brands IT Lab The project created an innovation technology lab for all of Inspire's seven restaurant brands on the 11th floor of an existing building in Sandy Springs, overcoming extensive MEP infrastructure to be on time and budget.



ALBION GENERAL CONTRACTORS INC. Atlanta Humane Society Headquarters

This project, built on a remediated brownfield site in Midtown Atlanta, involved a 40,000-square-foot facility with modern amenities and façade. It was completed in October 2022 after a May 2021 start.



SPORTS TURF CO. Columbia County Schools Track and Field Facilities This project for the Columbia County School District in Evans involved renovating all five school stadiums, expanding the tracks and providing safe,

durable and high performing surfaces.

DESIGN-BID-BUILD | NEW

MCKNIGHT CONSTRUCTION Woodstock Middle School Classroom and Woodstock High School Gymnasium Additions Challenges in this project included an occupied site and unforeseen conditions that compressed an already tight schedule.

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\$20M - \$50M | DESIGN-BID-



COOPER AND COMPANY GENERAL CONTRACTORS INC.

Cumming City Center This \$22 million project involved constructing 10 individual buildings at more than 110,000 square feet and a parking deck, simultaneously with site, road, parking, trails, mini golf course, amphitheater and pond projects.



BARNSLEY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

United Airlines ATL Lobby Refresh This renovation of United's ticketing lobby within the Atlanta airport's North Terminal included replacing all counter millwork, adding 14 kiosks, two recheck stations and backwall electronic signage. All work was done at night to avoid impacting the airline.



COX & CO.

One Overton Park Lobby Renovation This project involved the full renovation of a Class A office building lobby in Atlanta while the building was occupied. Finishes, millwork and terrazzo flooring were completed during the overnight hours and weekends.



BARNSLEY CONSTRUCTION GROUP

Sugar Hill E Center – Event & Conference Space

This project involved the buildout of a multipurpose space for city staff, artists and rental space customers such as event or conference planners within an existing, operating parking deck.



THE PINYAN CO.

SouthCoast Health Pediatrics The project in Richmond Hill included a full interior buildout with some renovations to the exterior. The 11,162 square-foot former play center was gutted and renovated with a kid-friendly design. It offers more parking and immediate X-ray and lab access.



LUSK AND COMPANY INC. *Pi Beta Phi Sorority House at The University of Georgia* The project added a one-story dining/ chapter room and two new exit stairs and renovation of public spaces of two existing two-story buildings. The main structure was built in 1939.



WARREN ASSOCIATES INC. Macon-Bibb County Law Enforcement Center

Renovations to the 45-year-old jail included cover plates that kept inmates from jamming locks of 320 maximum security cell doors, saving about \$3 million; and roof leak and HVAC fixes.



KEVIN PRICE CONSTRUCTION The Yard at Wire Park The project transformed a historic former manufacturing plant in Watkinsville into a 30,000-square-foot indoor baseball and softball training facility.



DUBLIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC. Hawkinsville City Hall

The project involved demolition of existing vacant former industrial buildings and construction of a new \$3.5 million, 9,555-square-foot building for the city manager, city commission, chamber of commerce and city administration and financing, plus a museum.



TOMCO CONSTRUCTION INC.

Georgia Bone and Joint Fayetteville The new clinic's modern design required additional approvals and more complex construction work. The recently completed 17,560-square-foot building offers treatment, imaging and rehabilitation services.



WARREN ASSOCIATES INC. Vineville United Methodist Church – Sanctuary Ceiling Repairs The project involved extensive emergency repairs to the historic Macon church's ceiling, where plaster had separated from ceiling joists in multiple spots, and redesigning and restoring the ceiling.



JTVS BUILDERS INC. *Poe's Tavern – Savannah* Extreme spatial constraints and the lack

Extreme spatial constraints and the lack of a professional architect after initial plans were among the challenges in this renovation of a former firehouse downtown. JTVS worked with the owner on on-site design and build.





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GREEN HEART ENTERPRISES

Delta Operations Control Center 3 In Flight Services Summer Readiness Project Part of a Delta Air Lines Inc. \$18 million capital project, this venture relocated two Training Center rooms to its Operational Center #3 adding 50% space and capability to process 6,000-7,000 more flight attendants.



DUBLIN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC.

Georgia Sheriffs' Youth Homes Foundation Headquarters This construction project created a home office/training complex in Madison for several organizations, overcoming procurement difficulties, multiple types of building components and a large number of stakeholders.





SPORTS TURF COMPANY INC. Brookstone School's Mack Strong

Stadium
\$1M - \$4.99M | Athletic Fields

This project renovated the Columbus stadium, expanded the track and installed a natural grass drainage system on the field, allowing the school to host virtually any field sport competition.



MARTIN CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

Infinite Energy Center
\$5M-\$9.99M | Concrete
The contractor completed foundations, slab on grade, site walls, concrete columns and exterior stairs on this expansion and renovation in Duluth that doubled convention center space and added amenities such as a food court to the ballroom area.



MAYBERRY ELECTRIC
Vanderlande

• \$1M - \$4.99M | Concrete This 157,000 square foot, three floor corporate headquarters renovation in Marietta utilized the Lutron Vive lighting control system and the Lutron Plug load receptacle control system. It added a fitness center, dining hall and innovation center.



SOUTHERN ELECTRIC COMPANY LLC Wyndham-Margaritaville Atlanta Centennial Resort

• \$10M - \$14.99M | Electrical Frequent communication with the general contractor ensured electrical work on this zero-lot line jobsite at a 22-story hotel in downtown Atlanta went smoothly. Interior design was key.



MAREK BROTHERS SYSTEMS Gas South District Expansion and

Renovation
\$5M - \$9.99M | Finishes/Painting
This project in Duluth included a 90,000
square foot Exhibit Hall, a Convention
Center with 23 meeting rooms, a 21,600
square foot Grand Ballroom and a twostory concourse.



MCKENNEY'S INC.
Grady 13th and 14th Floor Behavioral Health Center Renovation
\$1M - \$4.99M | Mechanical
This project at Grady Memorial Hospital in Atlanta involved demolishing and renovating about 16,000 square feet

of existing space into new behavioral

health areas to serve increasing demand.

MCKENNEY'S INC. 14th & Spring Street

• \$5M - \$9.99M | Mechanical The specialty contractor installed a dewatering reclamation system at a 12-story office tower in Midtown Atlanta, solving a problem from planned underground parking deck levels disrupting the building's underground water table. The collected water served the restroom flushing fixtures.



MCKENNEY'S INC. Interdisciplinary STEM Research Building Phase II

• \$10M - \$14.99M | Mechanical This project installed HVAC and plumbing systems in a new fourlevel, 100,000-square-foot science, technology, engineering and mathematics building on the University of Georgia campus in Athens.



MCKENNEY'S INC. Emory Rollins School of Public Health • \$15M and over | Mechanical The specialty contractor worked with New South Construction on this 10-story, 185,000-square-foot, LEED Gold certified building that includes 10 classrooms ranging in capacity from 24 to 120 people and areas for studying,

training and gathering.



BRENT SCARBROUGH & CO. GSU Convocation Center

• \$1M - \$4.99M | Sitework Preparation of the 5.7-acre Atlanta site for construction of a new 140,000 square foot multipurpose indoor arena required demolition of an unknown jail wall from the 1970s and moving a major power line in the middle of Capitol Avenue.



BRENT SCARBROUGH & CO. 72 Milton Ave.

\$5M-\$9.99M | Sitework his two-year project on 13 acr

This two-year project on 13 acres in South Atlanta required rerouting traffic to allow a 220-foot tunnel bore 35 feet deep for rerouting the combined storm/ sewer system and blasting 17,000 cubic yards of rock.



BRENT SCARBROUGH & CO. Americold Logistics • \$10M - \$14.99M | Sitework

• \$10M - \$14.99M | SiteWork This project in Atlanta involved completing an underground infrastructure to an existing building while keeping driveways and roads to an existing logistics center open. Contractors had to schedule hauling of 51,000 yards of onsite dirt, among other challenges.



BRENT SCARBROUGH & CO. *Monroe Pavilion*

• \$15M and Over | Sitework This project involved preparing a more than 80-acre site in Monroe in Walton County for a 400,000 square foot multi-use property with approximately 29 outparcels, requiring the move of 570,000 cubic yards of dirt, building a 5.7-acre retention pond and four bores.

Executives ponder finding and keeping workers, technology, safety

By Jessica Saunders, Senior Editor

orkforce development and onsite job safety are some of the issues keeping construction company executives up at night. Atlanta Business Chronicle asked leaders of some Associated General Contractors of Georgia member companies to share their top concerns, how they are addressing them and what they see ahead for the industry.

C. David Moody Jr. is president of C.D. Moody Construction,an award-winning general contracting and construction management firm specializing in aviation, collegiate, commercial, K-12, municipal, nonprofit and retail facilities as well as historic renovations.

Matt Terek is chief operating officer for McKenney's Inc., an Atlanta based, owned and operated mechanical contractor with more than seven decades of experience.

WHAT'S KEEPING YOU UP AT NIGHT?

MOODY: A few things. One, the interest rate. Are we going to have a recession? Will project funding become an issue? I went through the Great Recession and I've been in business 35 years. I've been through a few recessions, but the Great Recession was painful.

Then you had the pandemic after that, so there's always this

fear where construction hits a real big roadblock because of funding or another pandemic. I think the other thing that keeps me up at night – I'm a product of the '60s, I'm 67 how polarized the country is becoming. I'm wondering how that's going to impact construction. But the one bright spot is - that I always tell people the one thing I love about construction - is that we get people from all walks of life, who probably never would talk to somebody different, to work together every day to make sure that the project is safe, quality and they're proud of the work. And they work together, so a lot of people get a chance to get exposed to people of different cultures on that job site over time and a lot of people will end up maybe changing some of the negative thoughts they might have with people. And that's one of the beauties of construction.

The polarization is a concern because of people. You know,

will it affect projects people want to build, or certain things that they were thinking about doing? When things get very polarized, people tend to hold off on spending. But also I think that it impacts us getting our workforce too. If you don't see people that look like you in the workforce, you don't know that career is possible for you. I grew up in the '60s and I thought I was going to be a draftsman because I had never seen a black architect. I didn't meet my first black architect till we moved from Chicago to Ann Arbor, Michigan, and I was 16. One of the things that's important in our industry is we have to create opportunities for people to see people who look like them, whether it's male, female, whatever, so they see the opportunities exist. That's what I mean by polarization.

TEREK: Safety and maintaining a talent pipeline are the most critical issues in our industry and our company. McKenney's works hard to find, attract and develop people. We believe there is no more crucial role for a company than sending everyone home daily in the same condition as they arrive at work. The difficulty in achieving excellent safety performance is that it must be done through culture. No one has the resources to police every decision and action your team makes throughout the day. The best safety culture requires the empowerment of each person to stop the task if



C. DAVID MOODY JR. *President* C.D. Moody Construction



MATT TEREK Chief Operating Officer McKenney's Inc.

something does not feel right. It also requires team members to hold each other accountable to avoid making poor safety decisions in the quest to meet schedule or productivity goals.

Our 75-year-old company is built on the foundation of growing and developing people. This type of culture requires us

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"I always tell people the one thing I love about construction — is that we get people from all walks of life, who probably never would talk to somebody different, to work together every day to make sure that the project is safe, quality and they're proud of the work."

- DAVID MOODY



to continually attract people to our company regardless of market conditions, which was especially challenging during the Covid-19 pandemic. Over the past 12 months, the labor market has started returning to normal, allowing us to grow.

WHAT STEPS ARE YOU/ THE COMPANY TAKING TO ADDRESS THOSE ISSUES?

MOODY: We try and make sure we create a culture of inclusiveness and opportunity and give hope. We get involved in a lot of the different schools and we recruit from around the country. I think the biggest thing is having an inclusive culture and one of hope and giving people great opportunities to climb and grow and see things that they like. We're in the mission critical work now, that's data centers and things like that, and it exposes people to opportunities that normally they might not see.

That culture of inclusiveness also helps on the polarization front, showing that everyone has a fair chance. We don't get involved in politics left or right. I think we focus on what we're going to do to make our industry better. And getting out there in the schools and talking and helping create excitement for the young folks to see the great opportunities that exist in construction. It's an incredible opportunity. I believe manufacturing left the U.S., but I believe construction is the industry that will help bring back the middle class. Because construction is the one industry where automation won't work: robots will not hang steel and do a lot of other things in construction. They might do it on a small scale, but they'll never be able to do it on a big scale. Construction is the one industry that's reliant on craftspeople to do the job.

TEREK: McKenney's continues to evolve our safety approach. While we have always prioritized training, we have increasingly focused on finding different approaches to empowering our people. This multipronged approach starts the day we hire an employee. We make new hires visible for the first 90 days to ensure company veterans focus their time mentoring our new teammates. This is important since they may be new to the industry or have come from a different safety culture. We ask our craftsmen and women below the leadership level to lead our daily safety planning meetings and to identify, document, and take steps to remove risks they encounter throughout the week. As our team learns that we need them to have a positive impact on their work environment, safety awareness increases for themselves and their teammates.

We recognize that our people want to see their career progress and to understand how McKenney's plans to help them grow and develop. To that end, we have created multiple "pathways" our employees can utilize to progress their careers throughout our company. Whether you are entering the trade in the field, are interested in becoming a project manager, or are an experienced veteran, we have a learning program that includes coaching and mentoring to help you achieve your career goals.

HOW DO YOU SEE THE CONSTRUCTION BUSINESS CHANGING IN THE NEXT FIVE TO 10 YEARS?

MOODY: Technology is changing as far as being able to review drawings and looking at how you can build a project. Technology plays an incredible role in execution. It creates more opportunities in our industry as far as how to be more effective and more efficient in planning. But at the end of the day, it's still going to be people that put a project together. The other thing in the next five to 10 years is finding people to replace all the people who are retiring in this industry, craftsmen and management. Right now we don't have enough people coming into the industry to replace those that are leaving. Skilled craftspeople are going to be

real critical over the next five to 10 years. How do we replace all those that are leaving the industry?

TEREK: The two major trends I have seen over the last five to 10 years involve prefabrication and integrated design/construction teams. I see these trends continuing to develop in the next five to 10 years. Project schedules are so critical. The best way to accelerate them is to push the boundaries on what is built offsite modularly and transported into the construction project. This requires project teams to onboard contractors earlier in the project cycle so they can impact the design to support modular construction, as well as develop and coordinate virtual models before physical construction begins.

Accelerating project schedules by engaging contractors during the design process requires the design and construction to be tightly integrated. When this happens, the budget is monitored in real-time to limit design iterations. It also enables fabrication-level drawings to be completed by the time the design is completed. Early identification of long lead items also helps to reduce project delays and cost overruns.

HOW IS YOUR COMPANY POSITIONED WITH REGARD TO THESE CHANGES?

MOODY: We are up to speed on the latest in technology, getting our folks trained. Also we are getting involved with skilled training programs in in our area. But more importantly, one of the things whenever I get the opportunity to speak, I also push vocational education in the public school system. When I was in high school, 1973, I finished the fall of '73. I graduated in 74. My senior year I wanted to take a home building course because I wanted to learn how to be a carpenter. To be a good architect, I figured if you knew how to build things, you'd be a better designer. But I wasn't allowed to take the class because you either had to be college. prep or vocational ed. And I was college prep. I think we make our kids choose way too early between vocational ed and college prep. And I think we should allow for our kids in high school and middle school to take classes that they like. If you like working with your hands, let them take those kinds of classes and don't put our kids in tracks. One of the things I'm working on is, we almost knock down kids who like working with their hands. We make so much about going to college. We make our kids who like working with their hands feel like they're not worthy or they're second class. I just really push that we should make all our kids who take vocational ed feel good, because most vocational ed graduates make more money than college graduates.

TEREK: Prefabrication and modular construction require significant investment. McKenney's has taken the necessary steps and invested in facilities, equipment, and people for decades to serve our clients' offsite fabrication needs. The investment starts with a large team of virtual construction designers prepared to produce 3D models of the building from which to fabricate. Next, we have multiple facilities equipped to cut, weld, and assemble several types of pipes and sheet metal. The last step is building a team to combine all the trades into one assembly or skid that can be transported to any project site.

Integrating a design and construction team requires constant communication and coordination. McKenney's has been investing in and growing qualified people that understand design concerns and can perform conceptual estimating. This enables realtime engineering and budget feedback throughout the design cycle. Additionally, we continue to make significant investments in our preconstruction technology, allowing design data to flow into estimating, fabrication, and ultimately into the service and maintenance tools an end user will be able to utilize throughout the building's life cycle.

MOODY: I hope we can find a way to make parents and young folks see the value of going into construction and that there's great opportunities for skilled craftsmen and folks who do go to college in construction management or engineering. There's plenty of work. There will always be construction, regardless of the economy. "As our team learns that we need them to have a positive impact on their work environment, safety awareness increases for themselves and their teammates."

- MATT TEREK



Construction confronts AI: A new mechanism to enhance brainpower

By Randy Southerland, Contributing Writer

rtificial intelligence (AI) is on the verge of transforming the construction industry. It's already enabling companies to get designs done faster, organize building projects more efficiently and reduce job site accidents, according to industry experts.

By accessing vast amounts of data, AI can solve problems and recognize patterns using algorithms that learn from data without the need for human programming. Actions like measuring architectural drawings for bidding can be done in seconds rather than hours or days.

"I'm absolutely convinced that [AI] will transform our industry in the next 10 years more than any other technology has in the last 100," said James Barrett, vice president and chief innovation officer at Turner Construction Co. "In the past five years, there's been a sea change in the interest and adoption of [new] technologies."

Interest has clearly soared even if the biggest gains are still be realized.

The 2022 Decision Intelligence

"Al is a technology that augments people. It's not one that replaces people. And I think that's the mindset that sometimes causes that change to be pushed back against by people in the construction industry."

- DOUG DOCKERY



Turner Construction Co.

Turner Construction's Spot robot perform

Maturity Index from Peak.ai found 92% of construction companies were using or intend to use Al. Yet only 65% of their Al projects were considered successful one of the lowest success rates of all industries.

The interest in AI is being driven by a host of factors ranging from the need to boost profit margins to worker shortages.

A study by economist Austan Goolsbee showed that construction productivity has remained flat since the mid-1970s, said Patrick Murphy, founder and CEO of Togal.Al. Other industries had a minimum 290% increase in productivity, he said.

Murphy's company offers a cloud-based platform that automates some of the most time-consuming tasks in construction. It uses computer vision AI models to automate determining the exact quantity of materials needed for a specific project. It also automates measuring and labeling project spaces and features on architectural drawings.

By automating time-consuming tasks, AI can free construction professionals to handle more high-value activities.

"I think crux of what AI, and specifically generative AI, is going to do is take all the learnings of everything that's been built in modern history, and apply that to future work," Murphy said. "There's some studies that show about 50% plus of change orders are the things that could have been solved well ahead of time if people had the time to focus on it."

Al won't replace skilled electricians, carpenters or bricklayers, but offers the prospect of greater efficiency and cost savings that will enable companies to do more with less. The industry still faces a



SAM BURNS Director of Virtual Design and Construction Balfour Beatty



DOUG DOCKERY Chief Technology Officer ConstructConnect



PATRICK MURPHY Founder & CEO Togal Al



shortage of trained workers and there is little prospect that AI will lead to the elimination of positions either on the job site or in the corporate office, sources said.

As more construction industry professionals see the need for Al, its use is expected to grow.

"There's still a certain amount of change that needs to happen around the acceptance of AI," said Doug Dockery, chief technology officer at ConstructConnect, which makes software that helps contractors discover and bid on construction projects. "AI is a technology that augments people. It's not one that replaces people. And I think that's the mindset that sometimes causes that change to be pushed back against by people in the construction industry."

One potential driver of acceptance is how existing

technologies succeed. Few sights symbolize construction more than a crane towering above a job site. It is the workhorse of modern building.

Turner recently implemented a device called CraneView by Versatile to gather data about work progress. Attached directly to the crane's hook, cameras and sensors track and record the flow and handling of materials, production rates, and crane utilization.

Predicative analytics enable builders to use the crane more efficiently, with fewer delays that can wreak havoc with work schedules. Along with identifying bottlenecks in loading, the device also alerts managers to unsafe activities, such as overloading cranes. "It's automating data capture and analysis so our superintendents can better understand the work and then

"I think crux of what AI, and specifically generative AI, is going to do is take all the learnings of everything that's been built in modern history, and apply that to future work."

"Something that we're currently piloting is getting all of our safety data together and determining where our key risks are across the business."

- SAM BURNS

reschedule the work to improve productivity," Barrett said.

The technology is speeding up the process of designing buildings through a process called generative design, according to Javier Irizarry, associate dean for academic affairs in Georgia Tech's College of Design.

Al is able to make iterations of design calculations faster, he said. "So a designer can go through large number of options before coming up with an optimal solution to a design that is more material efficient and that is more constructible."

Al is making inroads throughout the construction process from bidding to final construction. Startups and established companies are carving out niches to meet specific needs within the industry.

One of the best ways to save money and create efficiencies is through making the job site safer and preventing worker injuries.

"Something that we're currently piloting is getting all of our safety data together and determining where our key risks are across the business," said Sam Burns, director of virtual design and construction (VDC) at Balfour Beatty. "Then we're putting controls in place to make sure that we can reduce or eliminate risk for the folks out there on our job site."

The biggest promise of AI is constructing better buildings.

"The hallmark of a disruptive technology is it helps you break constraints," Barrett said. "You don't have to face trade-off anymore. Instead of 'either/or', it's 'and'. That's where AI comes in. With the people we have in the industry, we can deliver buildings cheaper, faster, to a higher quality. We now have a new mechanism by which we can begin to enhance the brainpower of our people."



As business leaders, we get so focused on the challenges and opportunities ahead that we fail to acknowledge the milestones we hit along the way.

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