

THIRD QUARTER 2006

# Georgia

## CONSTRUCTION TODAY



### Construction Materials Escalation

*Continues to Worry  
Contractors*

Also inside:  
AGC Environmental Resources



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### F E A T U R E S

THIRD QUARTER 2006



8

**Sticker Shock Will Stick Around**  
Construction materials escalation continues to worry contractors.



13

**Framework for Further Environmental Improvements**  
By far, AGC does more to represent contractors in the environmental arena than any other construction trade association.



15

**Employers Face Uncertainty of Immigration Reform**  
For employers, this new wave of enforcement heralds a renewed emphasis upon I-9 compliance.



18

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### D E P A R T M E N T S

- Message from the President...5
- CEFGA Receives National Recognition...21
- Index to Advertisers...22

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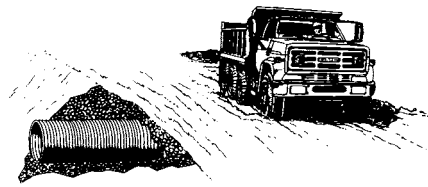
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message from the president

# Sustainability in Commercial Construction



Dave O'Haren,  
Executive Vice President  
Holder Construction Company  
2006-2007 Georgia Branch,  
AGC President



The AGC of America and Georgia Branch, AGC are leading the way for contractors to learn more about sustainable growth. Together, the associations are offering valuable resources that educate contractors on the importance of building green and helping them throughout the process. The message is reverberating throughout the construction industry and building green is here to stay as contractors are expected to embrace the role of stewards of our environment.

The age of building smarter is upon us. Designers and contractors are beginning to use high tech tools to help them build better and smarter. Part of building smarter is constructing our work by using sustainable building practices, also known as "Green Building." Sustainability primarily involves building practices that: (1) reduce the depletion of natural resources in the construction process, (2) reduce energy consumption required to operate buildings, and (3) provide high

**Building designers and constructors can have a huge impact on the earth's environment by only making small changes to the way we build.**

performance built environments that utilize the earth's natural systems to better support buildings.

Recent studies by the United States Green Building Council (USGBC) estimate that commercial and residential buildings consume 65 percent of the world's electricity, cause 30 percent of greenhouse gasses, create 136 million tons of construction waste, use 12 percent of the world's potable water and use 40 percent of the world's natural resources. In short, commercial and residential construction has a huge impact on our earth's natural resources and energy uses. Building designers and constructors can have a huge impact on the earth's environment by only making small changes to the way we build.

Many buildings are currently engaged in sustainable building practices. USGBC has an established sustainable measurement system called LEED - Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. The LEED Green Building

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Rating System<sup>®</sup> is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings representing every sector of the building industry, as listed on the USGBC website. Currently, over 300 buildings have been certified by the LEED rating system and an additional 2,100 projects have registered for certification.

While the LEED rating system may not be right for every project, there are things that every owner, contractor and designer can do to help their projects be sustainable. For example, recycling construction debris is an easy and cost effective way to build sustainably. Many contractors have learned that separating and recycling construction waste has proven to save haul off costs and return recycling fees to the project. Other contractors have established databases of environmentally-friendly materials to use on their projects, such as paint that has low volatile organic compounds (VOCs). A focus on building energy and lighting systems, including the use of natural sources, has proven effective for many builders. Water is another natural resource that can be effectively utilized in building sustainably. Using these practices together helps yield a high performing building that has lasting positive effects on the environment.

As you read the articles in this magazine, I encourage you to turn to page 13 and review *Framework for Further Environmental Improvements*. This will further outline the tools AGC can offer contractors and the great work that the associations are doing to spread the word about sustainability.

Contractors owe it to our industry's image, our environment, our country's future, and more importantly, our future generations to be proactive and utilize sustainable growth best practices. I'm proud to be affiliated with my own company and the AGC, both of which understand their roles in building smarter. ■

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feature

# Sticker Shock Will Stick Around



## Construction Materials Escalation Continues to Worry Contractors

By Ken Simonson, Chief Economist  
Associated General Contractors of America



“Sticker shock” is an all-too-common reaction of public officials and private owners alike these days as they open bids from contractors. The response is especially acute if the owners have been out of the market for a while or if they drew up the budget two or three years ago.

In the recession of 2001, and for a couple of years afterwards, there was virtually no inflation in the economy as a whole or in construction materials. The producer price index (PPI) for construction materials and components was unchanged from December 2000 to December 2001, while the overall PPI for finished goods fell 1.6 percent and the consumer price index (CPI) rose just 1.6 percent. The story was similar in 2002 and 2003.

But in 2004, steel prices skyrocketed in the first half of the year. Consequently, the PPI for construction materials and components soared 10 percent, while the overall PPI and CPI remained tame, rising 4.2 percent and 3.3 percent respectively.

No sooner had steel prices leveled off than other materials costs accelerated. Over the past two years, contractors have contended with annual increases of 15 percent or more for copper, asphalt, diesel fuel, gypsum, plastics and cement.

The PPI only measures costs at the producer’s loading dock or other point of sale. Thus, it does not reflect a contractor’s cost to transport, store, insure and install. Some of these other costs have increased even faster than the producer’s selling price.

Meanwhile, the CPI and the PPI for finished goods have continued to rise at modest three to five percent rates. Therefore, agencies and owners that use a single inflation

rate for all purchases have sorely underestimated the cost increases for construction projects.

This disconnect between construction costs and the rest of the economy is unprecedented, and many owners assume it must be unique to

The materials themselves are not scarce. The world is not running out of limestone to make cement, for instance. But production capacity has not kept pace with the rapid growth of demand, either in the U.S. or globally.

their project, or is a phenomenon that will reverse soon. But the first assumption is wrong—owners nationwide are experiencing the same shock. And the second assumption appears unlikely to come true.

Two characteristics distinguish construction costs. First is the dependence on fixed quantities of specific materials. Unlike consumer electronics manufacturers, who are constantly making their products smaller and lighter, it takes roughly the same amount of materials today as it did a decade ago to enclose 100,000 square feet of space or pave a mile of highway.

The materials themselves are not scarce. The world is not running out of limestone to make cement, for instance. But production capacity has not kept pace with the rapid growth of demand, either in the U.S. or globally. The U.S. economy has been expanding for four and a half years at an above-trend rate. Equally important, the economies of China, India and many other nations have been growing at rates as high as 10 percent per year. And those countries are using materials

like never before, for industrialization, infrastructure and consumer products.

As a result, demand for items like steel, copper and aluminum has temporarily outstripped worldwide production capacity and stockpiles,

sending prices shooting up. Eventually supplies do increase, but with a permanently higher level of demand, prices do not necessarily fall back to previous levels. And a tighter supply-demand balance makes further price spikes likely.

The second factor propelling construction costs is the need to physically deliver materials to a specific site. Unlike a writer, say, who can send an article to thousands of readers with a tap of the “send” button, every item that goes into a building must be carried to the site using petroleum-based fuel. That makes construction hostage to the costs of transportation services and diesel fuel, and vulnerable to any bottlenecks in transport or energy infrastructure.

In the past two years alone, sharp increases in ocean shipping, rail and trucking rates, congestion at ports, rail lines and highways, and breakdowns in refineries and pipelines have all driven up the time and cost for completing construction projects. Unfortunately, the U.S. is falling behind, not catching up, on maintaining and

*continued on page 11*



# The Southeast is No Exception

Suppliers and builders concur high prices are here to stay.

By Vicki Gervickas

Though the Southeast has been slow to see some of the problems faced by the rest of the country—unemployment, big real estate slow-downs—such is not the case with the nationwide “sticker shock.” Everyone in the local building industry is sharing the pain as materials costs soar. Local builders and suppliers also report the disconnect between basic economic principles—ready availability usually means lower prices—and the reality, where prices are high, and only going higher.

Locally, particular products seem especially hard hit. Chris R. Sheridan, Jr., president of Macon’s Chris R. Sheridan & Co., quickly lists four: “Concrete because of the cement; PVC pipe and products because of the oil; copper, particularly copper wire; and gypsum wall board.” Sheridan attributes today’s high prices to today’s global marketplace: “It’s worldwide demand, particularly in India and China, for construction products.”

Roger Smith, sales representative for the North Atlanta division of Ready Mix USA in Woodstock, Ga., confirms that cement costs have skyrocketed. “In the ready mix concrete industry, cement costs have risen the highest and fastest that we’ve seen over the past couple of years. It’s constantly on the increase, almost as bad as gasoline.” He also points to worldwide demand as the culprit, and points to the growth in Germany and other European communities as the reason.

For Tony Adams, president of Tebarco Mechanical Corp. in Alpharetta, one material has outstripped all others when it comes to price increases. “For us, the material that has increased the most rapidly and the greatest is copper tubing and fittings. From April 1 to July 1, the price of copper tubing doubled, and now what we’re seeing is the HVAC equipment that has copper components in it, we are seeing that increasing in price. If we bid a job six weeks

ago, today the supplier can’t honor the price, because the A/C costs went up six percent.”

Steve Cushing, salesperson for Lawrenceville’s STOCK Building Supply, says that with the materials themselves rising so quickly, plus having to factor in additional costs like the increasingly common fuel surcharges, planning and communication become critical. “The business has just evolved this way. As a supplier, I have to plan to get my inventory covered from the mills and, in turn, the contractors have to plan more ahead, just because of spot shortages, material pricing and allocations. In years past, you could just about read what the market was going to do. Now, when you get the bid, you need to get on it right then and make sure you have your materials covered, not just for pricing, but also for availability so you can keep your project moving and hit your completion date. The crystal ball just gets a little foggy if you try to look too far out.”

Tony Adams couldn’t agree more: “I hear the economists talk about a two percent inflation rate, and I say, ‘You’ve got to be kidding me.’ Things are getting disconnected—it’s not a supply and demand issue, it’s not a manufacturing issue. The problem it causes for us is in guaranteeing our pricing. We now have a note on our prices that they are good for 30 days and we stick to that. We used to be a little more flexible—if it went 60 days, it was no big deal. Now, if it’s day 31 we have to re-look at it.”

Also different from the past: no one in the local industry sees these increases as short-term spikes. Chris Sheridan says, “It’s certainly not a spike, I do see it as long-term.” If there’s a silver, or in his case, copper lining to be found, Tony Adams says it’s that this volatility in pricing is keeping projects moving forward. “Owners have finally realized it’s not going to get cheaper. Time truly is money today.” ■



This disconnect between construction costs and the rest of the economy is unprecedented, and many owners assume it must be unique to their project, or is a phenomenon that will reverse soon. But the first assumption is wrong—owners nationwide are experiencing the same shock. And the second assumption appears unlikely to come true.

*continued from page 9*

expanding its infrastructure, making it likely that delivery woes will become more common.

In short, owners need to recognize the new reality of construction costs. Strong global demand for materials that often have only limited and slowly expanding sources of supply means prices will rise faster than for services or goods that can be made less material-intensive. And the need to build in a specific location makes projects vulnerable to transportation and fuel costs. ■

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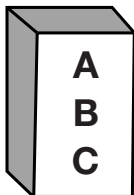


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## Framework for Further Environmental Improvements

*By far, AGC does more to represent contractors in the environmental arena than any other construction trade association.*

The public frequently misunderstands the construction contractor's role in real estate development, and may therefore blame such contractors for environmental problems not of their making, or expect more environmental improvement than contractors can deliver.

A significant number of individual family home builders are also real estate developers. The same is not true of contractors who build office buildings, hospitals, schools, highways, bridges, pipelines, power plants or other public or private infrastructure. With rare exceptions, such constructors are not real estate developers, or land use planners, or otherwise involved in deciding what to build, or where to build it. Nor are they the architects or other design professionals that determine how structures will appear, or how they will perform. Construction contractors are typically limited to implementing public and private decisions that others have made. Indeed, they are contractually bound to meet specifications that others write. Within their direct control lie the means and methods of construction, but not the entire range of decisions related to real estate development. Nevertheless, AGC recognizes that the construction process affects the environment. Careless practices



can lead to unnecessary pollution. AGC is committed to helping construction contractors minimize and mitigate the environmental impacts of their unique, important and otherwise challenging activities.

From AGC's perspective, construction contractors demonstrate their commitment to environmental stewardship whenever they actively seek to limit the adverse environmental impacts of the construction means and methods within their control, and thereby contribute to sustainable growth and development.

"Sustainability" requires consideration of environment, economics and equity. AGC gives equal weight to all three of these factors, hoping to provide a solid framework for its members to address important business concerns and simultaneously improve their environmental performance.

Without a doubt, AGC as a nationwide organization, in cooperation with all of its local chapters, is doing more than any other construction trade association to represent contractor's interest in the environmental arena. The association is also attempting to improve the industry's image by educating the public about the many ways construction professionals contribute to the betterment of the environment.

AGC as a nationwide organization, in cooperation with all of its local chapters, is doing more than any other construction trade association to represent contractor's interest in the environmental arena.

AGC's Environmental Agenda sets forth principles intended to balance contractor business and economic concerns with environmental protection. It builds on the association's strong relationship with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and complements AGC's commitment to provide environmental services to its chapters and members. AGC's relationship with EPA, and others in the environmental community, is crucial to the future of environmental regulations that contractors will be required to follow. These sectors turn to AGC for input from the contractor's perspective and AGC has earned this respect by having an open door and open mind for candid discussion.

AGC acknowledges and applauds the good work already being done by the construction industry to preserve environmental quality for future generations. Contractors already pro-

vide the education and skill, the best available technology and the workforce needed to revitalize and preserve valuable land and habitats.

AGC believes contractors must embrace the role of environmental steward and to help them succeed, the association has designed and developed a wealth of environmental services. These valuable offerings will help contractors stay on top of environmental requirements, make advances in "green" construction and be aware of other need-to-know environmental issues. All of AGC's members are affected by environmental requirements. If not properly managed, these requirements can delay if not threaten construction projects and increase the cost of doing business.

In a pro-active effort to help construction contractors meet federal, state and local environmental requirements, AGC develops and disseminates practical "compliance

tools" for AGC members. On both a local and national level, the associations regularly organize and hold environmental seminars, forums and networking events for construction contractors. AGC of America also publishes an electronic newsletter focused on informing members of environmental developments and highlighting their many positive contributions to environmental improvement. In addition, AGC provides strong support for those members who have an interest in going beyond legal compliance. For example, AGC has published and trained members on the only guidelines for a comprehensive Environmental Management System (EMS) specific to construction.

AGC's blueprint for future environmental stewardship lies within the following goals.

- Encourage environmental stewardship through education, awareness and outreach.
- Recognize environmentally responsible construction practices.
- Strengthen government support for positive incentives for environmental excellence.
- Improve coordination and use of federal, state and local environmental rules, programs and efforts.
- Provide contractors with tools to efficiently manage environmental exposures and risks of liability.
- Identify opportunities to reduce the impact that construction practices have on the environment.
- Identify ways to measure and report environmental trends and performance indicators of such trends. ■

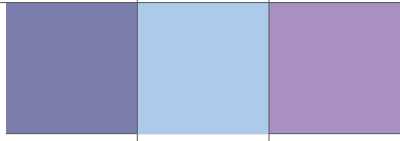
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feature

# Employers Face Uncertainty of Immigration Reform



By David C. Whitlock and D. Albert Brannen, Fisher & Phillips, LLP

For years, the government downplayed interior enforcement of our immigration laws. Inspections of I-9 compliance were rare, illegal workers thrived under a “catch and release” deportation standard and lenient I-9 standard, and no one seemed to care about the Social Security mismatch problem. All of that is changing.

Now, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is turning its eye to the interior. A recent increase in enforcement efforts resulted in raids, arrests, I-9 inspections and criminal proceedings. DHS Secretary Chertoff announced new enforcement initiatives designed to put the “bite” back in the I-9 law. Worse, recent remarks by Chertoff cast into doubt years of advice regarding the Social Security Administration’s mismatch letter. On top of all of these changes, employers are likely to face significant changes in the future as Congress tries to pass immigration reform legislation.

The current debate over immigration reform has put DHS and Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the public spotlight. Not sur-

prisingly, this attention has resulted in a new enforcement campaign no doubt aimed at proving that DHS and ICE are once again “on the case.” In April, DHS and ICE commenced a number of enforcement initiatives designed to bring interior enforcement to center stage. These initiatives resulted in a new wave of activity that appears to be touching all areas of enforcement – civil, criminal, administrative and judicial. Reports of raids and arrests abound. The number of I-9 inspections has also increased dramatically. ICE and other enforcement personnel are now actually arresting and detaining persons believed to be illegal and going after “absconders” who do not show up for deportation hearings or comply with deportation orders.

For employers, this new wave of enforcement heralds a renewed emphasis upon I-9 compliance. In the wake of the arrests and publicity, DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff stated his agency was going after employers guilty of “systemic” violations of immigration law. Chertoff’s



remarks suggest that DHS and ICE will use the criminal sanctions in the immigration law, i.e., the harboring and smuggling prohibitions, to go after “systemic violators” rather than the civil money penalty provisions created by the Immigration Reform and Control Act in 1986. DHS and ICE appear to be ready to argue that knowing employment of illegal aliens will now be punished as a harboring violation rather than a “knowing employment” violation under IRCA. The difference is significant as harboring violations carry a potential penalty of up to 10 years in prison and fines of \$5,000 or more. Contrast this with IRCA civil money penalties of no more than \$2,200 for a first knowing employment violation.

Perhaps more troubling are Chertoff's remarks about the SSA mismatch letter. For example, one of the factors cited in the post-raid press conference was that IFCO ignored the SSA mismatch letters for more than 10 years. Specifically, Chertoff stated: "[W]e all know that when you get a Social Security number that is 000-00-0000, that is not a real Social Security number. And the fact of the matter is, when employers get those kinds of numbers, or when there are other numbers that are provided that clearly do not match the names in Social Security records, that has to be a tip off that there's a potential illegal or undocumented worker who's being employed.

Chertoff's comments contradict long-standing INS policy stating that the SSA mismatch letter by itself was not grounds to question employment authorization. Now employers may be caught in the middle, not knowing whether or how to react to the SSA mismatch letter. DHS has also lamented the fact that it doesn't have access to the mismatch letter database, which also suggests that DHS believes that the mismatch letter now indicates illegal status. DHS has requested that the Senate include in any immigration reform legislation some provision for DHS access to SSA records regarding chronic mismatch offenders.

On June 14, (DHS) published a proposed rule in the Federal Register setting forth procedures and obligations for employers who receive the SSA mismatch letter. There will be a 60-day period for submission of comments on the procedures and time limits DHS has set forth. The rule gives employers 14 days to check records and report back to SSA or DHS regarding any necessary corrections. If records cannot be corrected within 14 days, the worker must be instructed to go to the local SSA or DHS office to try to fix the problem. If the employee does not return with new or corrected information within 60 days of the employer's receipt of the mismatch letter, the employer then has three days to complete a new I-9 form. The new I-9 form cannot use the SSN or document that was originally reported as suspect, and the employer must validate any new number or document using the SSA or DHS online verification systems. Of course, in nearly all cases, an illegal worker will not be able to present valid documents in order to complete the new I-9 form. Such a worker must be terminated if the employer is to avoid risk of severe fines and potential criminal liability.

Initially, it is likely that ICE's renewed enforcement efforts will focus upon completion of existing investigations of egregious violators, but soon, interior enforcement

efforts will be triggered by leads from other government sources, industry hiring trends, and anonymous callers. DHS has already announced that it will step up interior enforcement by shifting investigative resources to ICE's "Secure Border Initiative." The Senate recently approved an increase in appropriations for border security initiatives, and some of those funds will likely be shifted to interior enforcement. Since DOL's Wage-Hour Division and Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs have always had I-9 inspection powers, it is likely that their investigations of employer compliance will now be heeded, and where employer compliance is lacking, ICE will likely now follow up on DOL leads. Enforcement efforts will certainly be focused initially upon industries believed to employ large numbers of illegal workers, including agriculture, construction, hospitality, food processing, and textiles. Employers in these industries should be particularly concerned about I-9 compliance and may want to take more proactive steps.

All of this begs the question of what employers should do about this changing landscape. One possible step is to take advantage of the online verification systems offered by SSA and DHS. ([www.ssa.gov/employer/SSNVS.pdf](http://www.ssa.gov/employer/SSNVS.pdf)) These systems permit employers to verify documents presented by new hires and effectively get a clearance from the government

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confirming that the new hire is legally authorized to work. These systems are voluntary today and they are not foolproof. Also, they may involve more cumbersome procedures than an employer might otherwise face. Still, for those employers that may employ a large number of foreign workers, it may be prudent to absorb the extra processing time and modest incremental expense of online verification.

For employers that don't have a history of hiring significant numbers of foreign workers, the best advice may be to conduct self-audits of I-9 compliance in the event that ICE comes knocking. A random audit by a trusted outside source is also a good way to make a cost-effect assessment of I-9 compliance. Of course, if a self-audit or consultant suggests that I-9 forms need attention, fix the problems right away.

All employers should note that if any immigration legislation is enacted, it will almost certainly increase penalties for knowing employment and make the odds of an I-9 audit much more likely. Given the public and media attention upon lack of recent enforcement, one can expect that DHS will lobby Congress for substantial increases in appropriations for enforcement and personnel. Congress is likely to be very generous given the current public sentiment against illegal aliens. This, too, is likely to increase the probabilities of onsite inspections. Employers need to prepare for an era of heightened scrutiny and higher costs for both compliance and non-compliance.



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## Southern Polytechnic and the Construction Industry

*One step, many benefits.*

It only takes one step for a company and Southern Polytechnic to begin a rewarding partnership that benefits the industry and students who are preparing to be professionals in the construction workforce. "With an e-mail or phone call to us, the process is in place for industry and the University to work together to the benefit of both," says Dr. Khalid Siddiqi, head of the Construction Department of Southern Polytechnic State University.

Companies gain top quality candidates, trained to estimate, schedule and manage construction projects, for project manager positions through access to job listings, career fairs, on-campus interviews, company information sessions, and co-op and internship programs.

"A great deal of my time is spent in coordinating information between companies and students and assist-

ing the construction industry to fulfill their recruiting needs," says Dr. Siddiqi. "We take qualified students and provide them the technology and management skills that are vital today to handle new methods of documentation, inventory, and control for improved bottom line results. But our work does not end with preparing a future professional. The important final step is to connect students to the right companies," he says.

SPSU's construction program offers a wide variety of information-sharing processes between the industry and students, explains Dr. Siddiqi. "A company can become part of our ongoing placement program and be included on our very active Web site and in job announcements that are listed both electronically and physically on a job bulletin board that is located in the Con-



*Dr. Khalid Siddiqi and incoming advisory board chair, Donald E. Davidson, Inglett & Stubbs, LLC, reviewing information on the Web site.*



*Dr. Khalid Siddiqi, Melanie Salas, graduate student, and Garrett Sanders, certificate student, at the job and internship posting board at SPSU.*

struction Department hallway. This is accessible to every student every day. In addition, we hold individual information meetings where companies come to campus to meet with students in interactive sessions, which are then followed by sharing of resumes and one-on-one interviews between interested students and companies.”

The department also holds heavily-promoted career fairs. The next Construction Career Fair is October 11, 2006 from 3:00-6:30 p.m. at Southern Polytechnic. Participation in a fair may lead to the perfect match for a graduating student and a firm.

Dr. Siddiqi takes pride in describing the results of the students’ education and the industry’s involvement in the SPSU program. “We find that students in the Capstone final course for seniors have job offers waiting on the table for their graduation or are already employed in the CM discipline. In large part, that is due to the industry’s ongoing involvement with our program and the connections we provide between students and companies.”

Raymond Moody, CEO of Batson-Cook Company, backs up the success of the SPSU program. “The construction industry and related businesses, especially in the southeastern United States, have benefited greatly from the leadership and technical knowledge of the many well qualified graduates of

“The construction industry and related businesses, especially in the southeastern United States, have benefited greatly from the leadership and technical knowledge of the many well qualified graduates of the Southern Polytechnic State University Construction Program.”

– Raymond Moody, CEO, Batson-Cook Company

the Southern Polytechnic State University Construction Program," says Moody.

Other Georgia Branch, AGC member firms who currently hire graduates of the program include: Turner Construction Company; R.J. Griffin and Company; Van Winkle & Company and Hogan Construction Company.

"It is important to us that representatives of many companies serve on our industrial advisory board and help guide the education that will best meet their needs in the workforce," says Dr. Siddiqi. "The board is comprised of a wide variety of companies and associations of varying sizes and specialties who support us in many ways, including recruitment, connections with the community, providing co-op and internship programs, advice on improving curriculum and keeping pace with changing industry trends, and working with the SPSU AGC student chapter on networking activities and construction competitions. The board also assists with accreditation preparation, scholarship program funds for students, identifying sources for funding of faculty development activities, and improving and upgrading instructional technology." Advisory board members are listed on the University's web site at: [www.spsu.edu/CNST](http://www.spsu.edu/CNST).

"I invite any company who isn't taking advantage of the opportunity to connect with SPSU to investigate

#### Georgia Branch, AGC members who serve on the SPSU Construction Industry Advisory Board:

- Dave Butler, Turner Construction Company
- Don Davidson, Inglett & Stubbs, LLC
- Pete Striplin, Batson-Cook Company
- Rilo Stephens, Eckardt Electric Company
- Steele McCown, R.J. Griffin & Company
- Mike Hardin, Harcon Inc.
- Bill Lusk, P.E., Lusk & Associates
- Beth Studley, Holder Construction Company
- Mike Potts, The Potts Company
- Cherri Watson, Georgia Branch, AGC
- Robert Garvin, Kajima Construction Services, Inc. (Ex-Officio Member)

what we can offer and how we can support each other," summarizes Dr. Siddiqi.

SPSU Construction Program's Web site may be reached at: [www.spsu.edu/CNST](http://www.spsu.edu/CNST).

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# CEFGA Receives National Recognition

The Georgia Branch, AGC congratulates CEFGA – the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia – for receiving national recognition earlier this year. CEFGA was recognized in Washington D.C. in April by the National Association of State Directors of Career Technical Education Consortium (NASDCTEC) with the prestigious Stars of Education Award, Distinguished Service for Business, Industry and Labor.

A valuable partner since 1998, The Georgia Branch, AGC has given a cumulative \$255,000 to CEFGA for workforce development. Georgia Branch, AGC also actively participates in CEFGA programs, including the annual Georgia Construction CareerExpo and SkillsUSA contest.

The following is the text that appeared in the NASDCTEC Annual Awards Ceremony Program:

Georgia Branch, AGC would like to recognize the following leaders and organizations that make the work of CEFGA possible throughout the year:

**Doug Hunter, Holder Construction Company:**

Doug is the current president of CEFGA and has been a lead fundraiser for the organization for eight years.

**Doug Davidson, New South Construction Company, Inc.:**

Doug is a past president of CEFGA and a current member of the Advisory Board.

**Michael Kenig, Holder Construction Company:**

Mike is a current member of the CEFGA Advisory Board.

**John Champagne, Manhattan Construction Company:**

John is a current member of the CEFGA Board of Directors.

**John Doherty, Pyramid Masonry Contractors, Inc.:**

John is a current member of the CEFGA Board of Directors and key planner for the Construction CareerExpo.

**Calvin Pate, Harrison Contracting Company, Inc.:**

Calvin is a current member of the CEFGA Board of Directors.

**Ricky Vickery, Rogers Construction Company:**

Ricky is a current member of the CEFGA Board of Directors.

**Allen Calhoun, Lusk & Associates:**

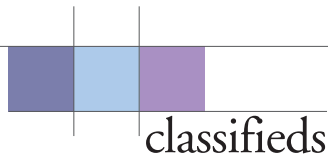
Allen is a current member of the CEFGA Board of Directors.

Career technical education in Georgia, specifically construction education, has made giant strides toward being recognized as a viable path to success, largely due to the efforts of the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA) and Scott Shelar, executive director. This organization is responsible for changing the construction programs in Georgia from “shop” classes to courses that teach skills required by the construction industry.

CEFGA was founded in 1993 as the Georgia sponsor of the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), which produces industry-developed, nationally-standardized curriculum used by construction companies. CEFGA’s accreditation policies, procedures and program audits have been nationally recognized as a model for delivering the NCCER Content Learning Series curriculum. Additionally, CEFGA has worked tirelessly to establish and maintain powerful partnerships between construction companies and construction education programs.

CEFGA has had a direct, demonstrated impact on the quality of technical education in Georgia. Currently, 28 programs are fully accredited, and from 1999 to 2005, CEFGA processed 41,752 student learning module completions and reported them to the NCCER for inclusion in the National Registry, which students can reference after they graduate. Most impressive, CEFGA produced the state’s first Construction CareerExpo for high school students, which brought together more than 1,500 students, parents, teachers and counselors to promote career and postsecondary training in construction. Overall, CEFGA’s rigorous accreditation process, and the high standards required for teachers to be certified to teach the state-approved curriculum, have made the state’s accredited programs the standard of excellence in technical education throughout Georgia and the nation.





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Stock Building Supply .....6

### CIVIL ENGINEERS

Eberly & Associates, Inc. ....22

### CONCRETE SAWING & REMOVAL

ABC Cutting Contractors .....12

### CONCRETE, CURB & GUTTER

Action Concrete, Inc. ....16

### DOORS/ FRAMES & FINISH HARDWARE

Commercial Doors & Accessories .....22

Southern Door & Plywood .....7

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Poorak & Associates, Inc. ....22

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Performance Contracting, Inc. ....16

### INSURANCE

Synaxis, Merritt & McKenzie, Inc. ....7

Yates Insurance Agency, Inc. ....4

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BB & T - Huffines-Russell .....12

### METAL ROOFING

Architectural Metal Specialties, Inc. ....11

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Utilities Protection Center .....inside front cover

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Crumpler Plastic Pipe, Inc. ....4

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Griffin Pipe Products .....22

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General Steel Company .....4

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Metro Waterproofing, Inc. ....17

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Marvin Window Distributors .....inside back cover

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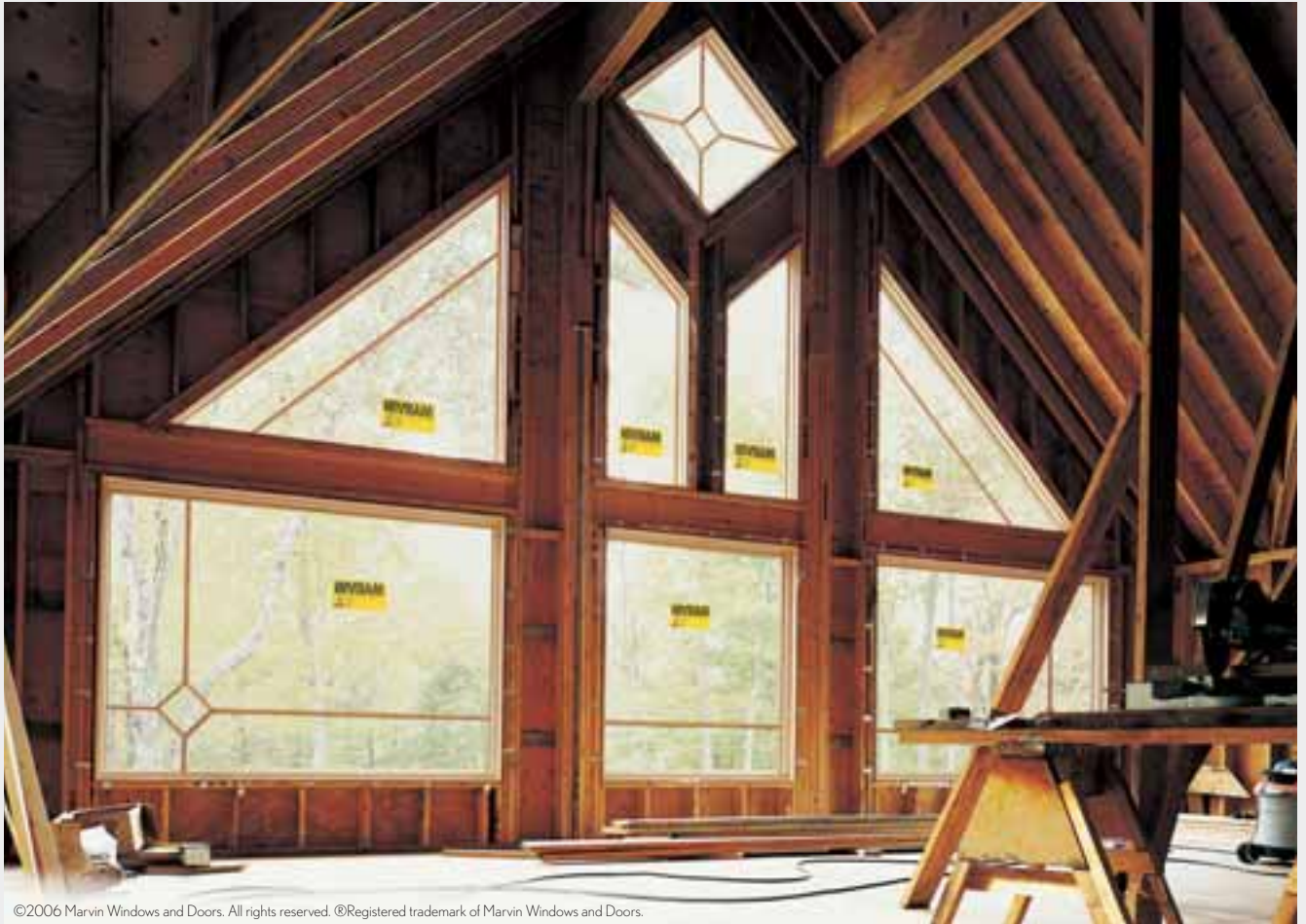
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