



Last December, 40 students with the FBLA program at Godley Middle School toured the Port Wentworth project in Chatham County. They heard from representatives at Gilbane, Mock Plumbing and H. A. Sack.



MEMBERS MAKING A DIFFERENCE

IN THIS ISSUE

Contractors Helping Develop Future Workforce

While contractors are enjoying today's rebounding economy, the improved market presents challenges. One of the most pressing is finding skilled workers. Is your company tackling this issue? If not, what would you do if presented with two more project opportunities? Do you have enough skilled workers to fill that need?

Did you know?

For every four skilled field employees reaching retirement age, only one person is in training to begin a career in the construction industry. Who is going to build our future?

AGC Georgia wants to help you find solutions to this challenge. By collaborating with members, we are able to find innovative ways to reach out to students in the state and inform them about meaningful careers available in the construction industry. Our regional Workforce Development Alliances are helping to overcome this particular challenge. In the past five years, we have grown from one alliance in central Georgia to six throughout the state including south, southwest, east central, and southeast Georgia as well as metro Atlanta. In January 2014, we developed the Workforce Development Taskforce, comprised of

contractors from across the state, to take a much broader look at how AGC Georgia can help its members. Thus far in 2015, the Alliances and taskforce have held 10 meetings.

Much of the success from our alliances lies at the grassroots level. Contracting firms are partnering with local high schools and/or technical college construction programs and learning the best ways they can support the students and instructors. Some programs need tools and materials, while others want superintendents, project managers, or company owners to share real-world advice with the students to help them understand the opportunities available to them upon graduation.

Included in this Workforce Development Update are some of the recent stories from members' efforts. If your firm has a success story to share, please contact Bill Chambless, AGC Georgia's member development specialist at chambless@agcga.org or 478.972.5865.

Bill has a list of construction programs in Georgia and can help you partner with a program of your choice.



Contractors Connecting with Instructors & Students *Page 4*

Joe Marchese, owner, Marchese Construction, visits with students at the Effingham College & Career Academy about opportunities in the construction industry.

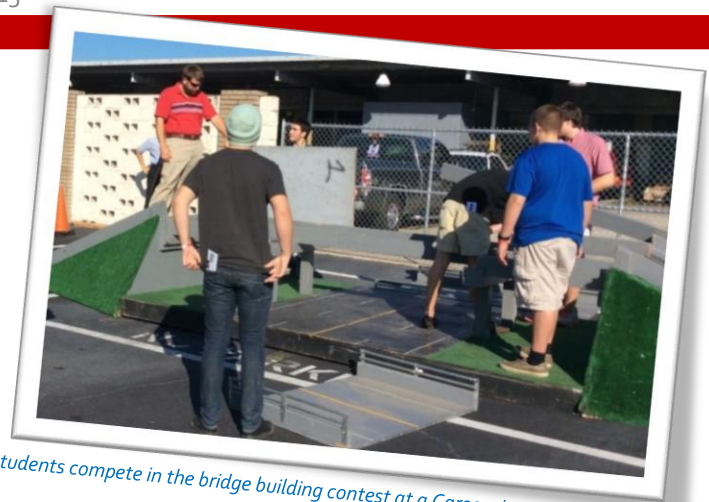


Statewide Initiatives *Page 6*

Another way AGC Georgia stays engaged with workforce development is through the Advisory Board of Governor Deal's [Go Build Georgia](http://www.gobuildgeorgia.com) (www.gobuildgeorgia.com) initiative.

Careers in Construction Days

- ▶ On January 26, Tony Varamo, Workforce Development Manager with MetroPower, visited with 60 students at Hall County High School. He shared the importance of today's job market and how there are ample opportunities for those who are willing to work hard.
- ▶ Members in Central Georgia participated in the Lamar County College and Career Academy Career Expo on March 25. Participating members included MetroPower, Greene & Associates and AGC Georgia. Students from Lamar County middle school, high school, and career academy attended the event.
- ▶ The Effingham County School System's Construction Career Expo was held on Wednesday, April 15 at the Effingham College & Career Academy. Joe Marchese, owner, Marchese Construction, visited with students and shared information about the construction industry.



Students compete in the bridge building contest at a Careers in Construction Event.

- ▶ Three MAGIC (Mentoring A Girl In Construction) Camps are planned for students this summer. One will be held in central Georgia from June 1-5 at Southwest High School. Others are planned at Gwinnett Tech and in Burke County.
- ▶ South Georgia members are planning the 4th annual Careers in Construction Expo for September 8 at Wiregrass Georgia Technical College.
- ▶ Members in southwest Georgia are planning their 9th annual Careers in Construction Day for September 24. This event will be hosted by Albany Tech at the Carlton Construction Academy.
- ▶ Central Georgia Workforce Development Alliance members will be hosting a Careers in Construction & Mock Skills event this coming fall. This event will take place at Central Georgia Technical College in November.
- ▶ For the second consecutive year, members in east Georgia will host a Construction Skills Expo on November 19th at the Augusta Fairgrounds for students to prepare for SkillsUSA regional competitions.



Students at Statesboro High School participate in the construction pathway.

Good News!

- ▶ AGC Georgia proudly recognizes Statesboro High School for their construction program's recent success. During the 2013-2014 school year, no students completed the pathway in construction. This school year, 20 students, mostly sophomores and juniors, have completed the construction pathway. Matt White, the school's construction teacher is looking forward to building on this success. He said, "I owe a great deal of gratitude to area contractors for providing their time and donating materials to our program."
- ▶ The construction industry grew to 6.3 million workers, up 308,000 in the past year and at its highest since 2009. However, the industry still fears labor shortages especially in Atlanta where development has come back to life.

Click [here](#) to read "Renotes: New Atlanta construction industry index raises concern over labor shortage" by Douglas Sams, *Atlanta Business Chronicle* or visit <http://bit.ly/1AoZkbZ>.

AROUND THE STATE



SkillsUSA Regional Competition

Students compete in the welding category at North Georgia Technical College for the Region 2 Championships.



SkillsUSA State Competition

Students competing in the masonry category of the SkillsUSA championship on March 26.

FAST FACTS

49%

Percent of general contractors concerned about a shortage of skilled workers by 2017 – Source: *Craft Workforce Development 2013 and Beyond*, nccer.org

26%

Percent of high school students who took construction courses and enter the industry – Source: *Craft Workforce Development 2013 and Beyond*, nccer.org

FOR MORE INFORMATION

NCCER. "Craft Workforce Development 2013 and Beyond." (n.d.): n. pag. NCCER. NCCER, 2013. Web. 26 Feb. 2015. <www.nccer.org/uploads/fileLibrary/Craft_WFD_2013_And_Beyond.pdf>.



Batson-Cook hosted a jobsite visit for SkillsUSA Region 4 winners from Shaw and Hardaway High Schools at their Blue Cross/Blue Shield Call Center in Columbus on February 18. The students were accompanied by their instructors, Jessie Courville, Paul Grantham and other school district staff.

Construction Skills Events

These events offer a practice environment to prepare for the SkillsUSA competition held at CEFGA's Construction Career Expo at the Georgia International Convention Center each March. At this year's event, over 7,000 people attended with 5,500 of those being students from state high schools.

- On December 12, 2014, Central Georgia Technical College hosted the Construction Skills Challenge.
- Three SkillsUSA Competitions were held on January 23, 2015. One in west Georgia for Region 4, another at the Oconee Fall Line Technical College for Region 6, and at the Georgia Northwestern Technical College for Region 1.
- Northeast Georgia participated in the SkillsUSA Region 2 contest held on January 29, 2015 at North Georgia Technical College.
- Another SkillsUSA competition was held for Region 5 participants on February 5 in Griffin at Southern Crescent Technical College.
- Two SkillsUSA contests were held on February 6. One was held at Atlanta Technical College for Region 3

participants, and the other at Golden Isles Career Academy in Savannah for Region 8 participants.

- South Georgia was home to the Region 7 SkillsUSA Contest on February 7 at Moultrie Technical College.
- In fall 2015, both the Central and East Georgia Workforce Development Alliances will hold their own Construction Skills Expos.



AGC Georgia is proud to be a major underwriter of the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA). Our members and Chapter staff are engaged in regional SkillsUSA competitions. Winners of these regional meets are invited to compete at the annual March Career Expo and SkillsUSA State Competitions. To learn how you can be more involved with high school students who are interested in construction, please contact Bill Chambless at 478.972.5865 or chambless@agcga.org.

Contractors Connecting with Instructors & Students

- Greer Gallagher of Holder Construction Company recently met with the principal, assistant principal, and construction teacher at Osborn High School. Currently, the program has 75 students and provides a spacious lab with all the necessary equipment and access to blueprints.

With such a large number of students in the program, the school can benefit from support of local industry partners. They hope to gain additional funding to support another instructor as the current teacher cannot cover both the lab and the classroom. They area also in need of more materials for projects, offers for field trips to jobsites, and professionals to visit the class to share their own construction career paths.

- Jeff Bearinger of Lumpkin County High School brought 35 students to Swofford Construction's Camp Glisson Dining Hall project in Dahlonega for their second visit on December 2, 2014. Rick Reed, project superintendent, led



Swofford Construction hosts students for a jobsite tour.

students on a tour. He stressed the importance of safety and shared many of the challenges the crew faced with the site work, utilities, and the building's exterior. He also discussed the construction management process and value engineering.

- Holder Construction is working with North Springs Charter High School to create a Construction Club (ACDC – Architecture, Construction, and Design Club). This club will increase the student's awareness of career opportunities in construction. Holder and ACDC are working together to provide students with in-school activities along with an after-school mentor program.

Holder has also launched a branch of the ACE Mentor Program of Atlanta. The mission of the program is to introduce high school students to careers in architecture, construction, and engineering fields. During after school sessions, students learn about skilled trades such as carpentry, masonry, welding, plumbing, mechanical, and electrical. They are challenged to complete hands-on activities and are offered the opportunity to visit local construction jobsites and trade shops.

The North Springs program, headed by Holder's Amy Tribo, is the pilot for a new ACE Atlanta model bringing skilled trades/craft focused education to schools lacking accredited construction education programs. The program is just one area of focus for the ACE Mentor Program established by Holder Construction in 2005.



Students at the ACE North Springs Kickoff

- Joe Marchese, owner of Marchese Construction, is working with Travis Nesmith, Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) Director for the Effingham County School System to host an Effingham County School System Construction Career Expo. The Expo was held on Wednesday, April 15, 2015 from 12:30 – 2:30 pm at Effingham College & Career Academy. Industry professionals talked with students about opportunities in the construction industry upon graduation.
- Elkins Construction, LLC hosted Carlos Jones, Jr. and students from Camden County High School's construction program at a school project jobsite the firm is building in Brunswick, Ga. Zach Moore, project manager, led the group on a tour.



Camden County High School students visit with Elkins Construction, LLC in Brunswick.

Providing Financial Support

Upson-Lee & Lamar Co. High Schools
After Gerald Wread of Lamar County expressed the need for supplies to help students, several local members pitched in to assist. Contributions helped his team prepare for Central Georgia's Construction Skills competition. All-State Electric delivered a truck load of supplies last November to Lamar County.

Piedmont Construction Group purchased \$2,000 worth of 2 x 4s, 8 sets of tools each including 3 screw drivers, side angle cutters, wire strippers, needle nose pliers, and a tool belt. These supplies were provided to Upson-Lee and Lamar County.

MetroPower purchased electrical books, AGC Georgia provided Gerald with his wish list from the AGC of America bookstore, and M&D Masonry gave brick and mortar supplies to the program.

Brent Pyles, President, Pyles Plumbing and Utility also donated pipe and fittings.

At the end of the March 25 Lamar County Career Event, Stafford Linsenhach with Greene & Associates gave Gerald plumbing fittings and plans to return with another truck load of materials this spring.

Bibb County

Hutchings College and Career Academy received a grant from the Department of Education for \$3.1 million to proceed with renovating the old Ballard-Hudson school to use as the new location for the academy. AGC Georgia supports the decision to convert the school and work with College and Career Academies across the state to develop a pipeline of skilled construction workers.

Fulton County

The county's BOE released a Donated Structure Approval Process for general

contractors wishing to help schools in the Fulton County School District. The process includes 8 phases: Project Request, Project Design, Technical Review, Memorandum of Understanding, Board Approval, Bidding Process, Construction, and Project Close-Out.

At Roswell High School, Tom Troutman and Daniel Maxson of New South Construction and John Carruth of Millard, Inc. are working with construction teacher Zach Fields to build a new construction lab for its 110 students. SPLOST funds will be used to complete this project with an expected opening date in August 2016. New South Construction is also working with the school to host a safety training day for students to learn the importance of safety on the job site.

East Georgia

Students in the following schools competed in the construction related SkillsUSA Competition in March:

- Grovetown High School
- Evans High School
- Burke County High School
- Jefferson County High School
- Statesboro High School
- Washington County High School
- Hephzibah High School

R. W. Allen, LLC delivered a \$500 check to each of the programs to help with expenses.

AGC Georgia
wants to connect
you and your
team with a
construction
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AROUND THE STATE



Lamar County High School

Students participate in an electrical class at Lamar County with power tools provided by Conditioned Air, Inc. in Macon.



Roswell High School

Students in Roswell are working on a shed that will be sold upon its completion to help buy new materials for the construction lab.



North Springs Charter High School

Representatives from Hogan Construction meet with students at North Springs to discuss Construction Basics. The discussion focused on safely using tools, handling materials and reading construction documents.



Washington County High School

Scott Clark, President, R. W. Allen, LLC, delivers a \$500 check to construction teacher, Antonio Young and Crystal Swint, President of the school's SkillsUSA Chapter.

Statewide Initiatives

Mark Your Calendar and Plan to Support These Programs!

- Camp Trade & Industry (T & I) is planned for June 12-14 at the Golden Isles Career Academy in Brunswick, GA.
- Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education (GACTE) Summer Leadership Conference is planned for July 12-15 at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel in Atlanta, GA.
- SkillsUSA Leadership Conference will be held October 23 - 25 on Jekyll Island.
- CEFGA Expo and SkillsUSA Championships will be held March 25-28, 2016.
- Regional SkillsUSA Competition dates for first quarter 2016 will be released later this year.



**Trade & Industrial Educators of Georgia (TIEGA)
Winter Conference - January 2015**

Top: Robbie Pope, Brasfield & Gorrie, discusses OSHA Requirements for Residential Construction. **Middle l-r:** Jeff Johnson of Burke County High School shares information about AGC Workforce Development Alliances and how they are helping construction programs; and Wesley Jacques from Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc. talks about environmental safeguards and material testing. **Bottom:** Jason Waddell of Batson-Cook Company provides an introduction to BIM.



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