



**Georgia**

Your Construction Industry Partner

# Workforce Development Update

*A quarterly publication of the  
Associated General Contractors of Georgia, Inc.*

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Connect with construction programs in your area.

Contact Bill Chambless, AGC Georgia's Member Development Specialist at [chambless@agcga.org](mailto:chambless@agcga.org) or 478.972.5865.



Construction teachers attending the Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education (GACTE) Conference in July participated in a jobsite tour of the SunTrust Park Braves Stadium.

## Celebrating Careers in Construction

One of AGC Georgia's strategic objectives is to connect with schools, contractors, academia, and government around the state to build a pipeline of skilled workers to help build our state's future. Through dialogue with the Department of Education (DOE), the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG), local school districts, and contractors, we are working to find the best path to implement a common construction curriculum at a statewide level. Schools already using NCCER are seeing great results, and we want to introduce this program to all construction classrooms.

the value of careers associated with the industry.

We are very fortunate to have such giving members. So many are active in the workforce development discussion and volunteer time to local programs. This grassroots initiative is called the **one school, one instructor, one student** approach. Our efforts have led to an increase in jobsite tours, speaking engagements at schools, and meetings to discuss the best ways to implement these programs in schools ranging from elementary to post secondary. It's great to see teachers inviting contractors to their programs to open a line of communication with students.

Since October is Careers in Construction Month for the United States (as promoted by Build Your Future), we collaborated with Senator Mike Dugan for Governor Deal to declare October 26 - 30 as Careers in Construction Week in Georgia. We sent a copy of the proclamation, shown to the left, to all construction teachers in Georgia to hang in their classrooms and discuss with students and parents as a way to promote

Included in this *Workforce Development Update* are some of our members' recent efforts. If your firm has a success story to share, please contact Bill Chambless, AGC Georgia's member development specialist.



Click image to enlarge or visit <http://bit.ly/1MewoUC>.



Elkins Construction helped students at Statesboro High School with masonry skills.

## Mark Your Calendar

- **OCTOBER 22 - 24, 2015**  
SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference  
Jekyll Island Conference Center  
Jekyll Island, GA
- **NOVEMBER 5 - 6, 2015**  
Lt. Governor's Annual  
Business + Education Summit  
Golden Isles Career Academy  
Brunswick, GA
- **NOVEMBER 6, 2015**  
3rd Annual Construction Career Expo  
Organized by the Central Georgia  
Workforce Development Alliance  
Hosted at Central Georgia Technical College  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Macon
- **NOVEMBER 19, 2015**  
Construction Skills Challenge  
Organized by the East Georgia Workforce  
Development Alliance  
Hosted at Augusta Fairgrounds  
9:00 am - 2:00 pm  
Augusta
- **JANUARY 22, 2016**  
Region 1 and Region 6 SkillsUSA Contest  
Location TBA
- **JANUARY 28 - 30, 2016**  
TIEGA Winter Conference  
Columbus Georgia Convention & Trade Center  
Columbus, GA
- **FEBRUARY 4, 2016**  
Region 2 SkillsUSA Contest  
North Georgia Technical College  
Clarkesville, GA  
Region 5 SkillsUSA Contest  
Southern Crescent Technical College  
Griffin, GA
- **MARCH 17 - 18, 2016**  
CEFGA Expo/SkillsUSA Championship  
Georgia International Convention Center  
College Park, GA

For more information, click [here](#) or visit [bit.ly/1jkl8yd](http://bit.ly/1jkl8yd).

# Contractors Connecting with Instructors and Students

In July, **R. K. Redding Construction, Inc.** donated money to Bremen City Schools to initiate the YouScience Program. This online instrument allows students to connect their aptitudes and interests with career opportunities to help them make informed decisions about their education and career path.

Right before school began this August, Zach Fields, construction teacher at Roswell High School, asked area contractors to train his students with the OSHA 10-Hour. Three member companies (**New South Construction Co., Inc., Collins and Arnold Construction Co., LLC, and Swofford Construction Co., Inc.**) are sharing costs for all 75 of Fields' students to complete this training during the 2015-16 school year.

In the past four months, Tony Varamo, **MetroPower, Inc.**, recruited four students, who are excelling in their studies, from Jim Steel's construction program at Crisp County High School.

On August 19, students at Statesboro High School were treated to a jobsite field trip courtesy of members,

**Elkins Construction, LLC and Mock Plumbing and Mechanical, Inc.**

The first part of the day included a trip to an Elkins Project - Pooler's new City Hall/Courthouse. Students learned about the construction business and how it takes many different types of skills to build safely. The visit concluded with a tour of footings and the layout of the new site. Later that afternoon, students went to the new Student Health Center on Georgia Southern's campus. Daniel Tucker, Mock Plumbing, coordinated the visit and tour. He explained the different construction phases for this building, types of equipment, specialty components, and the BIM process being used.

**Garbutt Construction** began a partnership with the two Laurens County high school construction programs. The firm is offering jobsite tours, mentoring and shadowing opportunities, as well as part-time and summer employment for motivated and deserving students. In August, Garbutt hosted Dean Cutler, East Laurens High School Construction Teacher, and his class at a jobsite.



Garbutt Construction hosts students on a jobsite tour of one of their Dublin projects.

Zach Fields organized the Junior Hornet Construction Club which began in September at Roswell North Elementary.



Several other members are committed to providing local schools with the opportunity to visit projects and learn about construction. **JCI Contractors** is providing jobsite tours for students at Colquitt County High School and visiting with them in their lab.

**R. K. Redding Construction, Inc.** is excited to begin their partnership with Haralson County High School and Polk County High School. Additionally, **Swofford Construction, Inc.** has a relationship with South Cobb High School, and Holder Construction enjoyed hosting Spalding County High School students on September 23 at their Georgia State University project.

As shown in the photo on page 2, Zach Fields continues to make strides in the Roswell area. He began a construction club at Roswell North Elementary School and Elkins Pointe Middle School. Fields hopes to get younger children interested in the construction industry before they reach high school. The middle school club kicked off on Friday, September 4 with a joint field trip to a jobsite with the high school students. The elementary school will follow suit in the spring allowing for parent volunteers, high school students in Fields' program, and industry partners to provide awareness to younger students. Fields hopes the clubs eventually become classes at their respective schools.

On August 21, Henry County College and Career Academy (HCCCA) hosted industry professionals to discuss programs offered at the school and review their successful model for construction courses. During the meeting, participants heard industry updates from:

- Dr. Barbara Wall, CTAE Director, **DOE**
- Kenny Adkins, Curriculum Program Specialist, **TCSG**
- Irene Munn, Legal Counsel, **Lt. Governor Casey Cagle's office**
- John Uessler, CEO, **HCCCA**
- Joe Tuggle, Executive Vice President, **Swofford Construction, Inc.**

Following presentations, the group took a tour of the academy and enjoyed lunch prepared by the culinary students.

Industry/education/government representatives met at the Henry County College & Career Academy in August.



In July, while attending the GACTE Conference and participating in a tour of the Braves Stadium, 40 educators from around the state attended a class discussing best practices of stick-built construction at AGC Georgia's Training Center. Teachers learned skills which will benefit their students.

As shown in pictures on page 4, students at Lumpkin County High School are continuing to work on the home of an elderly couple. Students completed the design and layout last year. This year, they were asked to install the trusses and sheet the roof.



Educators from across the state toured the new Braves Stadium and gained insight on construction practices used on the project.



## Providing Financial Support

In August, Christy Kovac, **Sheridan Construction**, purchased eight tool kits for Ben Lowe's program at Upson-Lee High School.

Scott Clark, President/COO of **R. W. Allen, LLC** organized a recent telethon benefiting workforce development efforts. Joining him on September 15 to "dial for dollars" were Bob Shaw, Gold Mechanical, R. W. Allen project managers, and Mary Helen Purcell, the firm's Marketing Coordinator. Together, they raised over \$17,000 for the AGC Georgia Foundation. These funds will support the regional November skills challenge and other East Georgia Alliance activities.

Last month, **The Home Depot** of Powder Springs proudly donated roofing materials, lumber, and sheetrock to South Cobb High School. Store leaders look forward to providing local schools with supplies in the future.



Students at Lumpkin County High School continue working on a home for an elderly couple whose house burned down in February 2015.

Statesboro High School students participate in a field trip courtesy of Elkins Construction, Inc. and Mock Plumbing. (see story on p. 2)

(l) Ben Lowe, Upson-Lee High School, receives toolkits donated by Sheridan Construction. (c) Tim Grimes (r), Dollar Concrete Construction, interviews candidate for a scholarship with AGC of America. (r) Representatives from TCSG, GSFIC, and AGC Georgia meet to discuss new programs for students.

## Statewide Initiatives

- In early July, members from Metro Atlanta and the Central Georgia Workforce Development Alliance gathered at Southern Crescent Tech to meet with educators from the college, Spalding County High Schools, and officials from the DOE and TCSG. Joe Tuggle, **Swofford Construction**, emphasized the need for apprenticeship programs benefiting the construction industry.
- At the Georgia Association for Careers and Technical Education Conference in July, teachers from around the state came to metro Atlanta to share best practices and learn from industry professionals. During the event, educators were led on a tour of the SunTrust Park, future home of the Atlanta Braves. After the tour and lunch, AGC Georgia hosted an awards presentation in the training center. The following were recognized by CEFGA for their efforts during the 2014-15 school year: Dean Cutler of East Laurens High

School, Walter Preston of Griffin High School, and Bill Steel of Murray County High School - all named 2015 High School Instructors of the Year, and Bill Chambless, AGC Georgia was presented the Industry Champion Award. Dean Cutler was also recognized for having the Most Modules per Student Reported and Walter Preston as a CEFGA Ambassador.

- On July 27, Mike Dunham, Mark Woodall, and Bill Chambless of AGC Georgia visited with Suzanne Williams and Shane Evans from Chattahoochee Technical College. The group discussed the importance of apprenticeship programs as a way to expand training opportunities offered to students. The meeting also touched on the perceived lack of alignment between high school construction programs and collegiate programs and AGC Georgia's desire to be a partner and resource to these programs.

- Representatives from member firms **Gay Construction, JE Dunn Construction, Holder Construction and Brasfield & Gorrie**, as well as AGC Georgia CEO, Mike Dunham, spoke at the Cobb County Workforce Connection meeting hosted by Cobb Chamber of Commerce on August 5. They spoke about our industry's efforts to work with construction educators to introduce students to careers in construction while attending middle and high school. The steering committee of the Workforce Connection is comprised of many diverse stakeholders, including representatives from DOE and TCSG. Irene Munn from the Lt. Governor's Office and Senator Lindsey Tippins also participate in these ongoing meetings. The steering committee is involving several industries in the meetings which are facilitated by the Carl Vinson Institute. The group's end goal is to develop a plan to help Cobb County Schools educate students in a variety of sustainable career pathways.