



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

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Associated General Contractors of Georgia, Inc.



AGC
Georgia
Your Construction Industry Partner

Connecting with Students

1 New Hope Elementary School

In December 2015, Joe Tuggle, Swofford Construction, Inc., spoke with 5th graders at New Hope Elementary School in Locust Grove. The students were tasked with the assignment to build a 21st century classroom. During the project, students needed to research items in the room, draw scale floor plans, and build scaled models. Together with construction students at Henry County College and Career Academy, the students will build the project in its entirety. Tuggle spoke with the students and answered questions they had regarding stages of the project.

2 Hutchings College & Career Academy

Students enrolled in the school's construction, aviation, automotive, and information technology programs and their instructors sat down with industry professionals to discuss career opportunities and what employers look for in employees. Tony Varamo, MetroPower, attended the event with Bill Chambless, AGC Georgia, to answer questions posed by instructors and students. Varamo led live interviews with students giving them pointers on how to conduct themselves during an interview.

3 East Georgia

On February 23, R. W. Allen, LLC hosted two girls at their office for a National Job Shadow. In addition to the office visit, R. W. Allen, LLC and Gold Mech hosted six Hephzibah High School students in the field. The group spent the day on the Academy of Richmond County jobsite where they shadowed superintendents and field employees from both companies.

4 Ebenezer Middle School

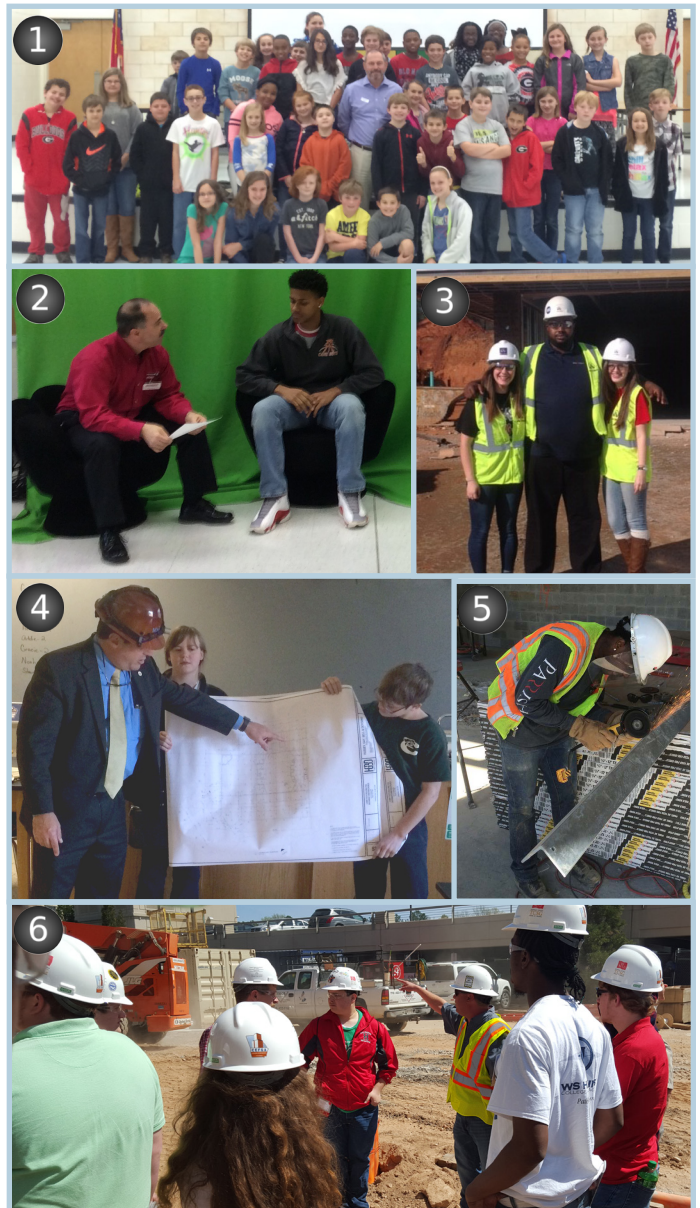
Joe Marchese, Marchese Construction, LLC, visited Ebenezer Middle School in Rincon in February. Marchese spoke with students about career opportunities as well as demonstrated the technology currently being used in construction. In the future, he plans to visit with other schools in Effingham County.

5 Atlanta Public Schools

Parrish Construction Group hosted Donald Lewis, a construction work-based learning student at Atlanta Public Schools' Alonzo A. Crim Open Campus, as an intern for an 18-week-on-site construction learning program. While interning, Lewis worked on the expansion of APS's Brandon Primary Center in Atlanta. Under the direction of Superintendent Art Cofelice, Donald helped the team renovating existing classrooms and adding new classrooms and a new gym/theater.

6 West Central Georgia

During the CEFGA Worlds of Construction, Batson-Cook Company hosted a site visit for students from South Paulding High School, Hardaway High School, and Westside High School. Students learned the process for coordinating the build of a hotel and the characteristics it takes to be successful in the construction industry. The group was led by Senior Product Manager Chad Loggains and Superintendent Charlie Meachum.



(1) Joe Tuggle visits New Hope Elementary School. (2) Tony Varamo conducts mock interviews at Hutchings College & Career Academy. (3) R. W. Allen, LLC hosts two female students at a jobsite. (4) Joe Marchese talks with students at Ebenezer Middle School. (5) Donald Lewis performs ironwork during his internship with Parrish Construction. (6) Batson-Cook shows students around a hotel jobsite.

Providing Materials

Instructors reach out to AGC Georgia and our members when they need supplies that cannot be purchased by the schools due to lack of funding.

Roswell High School

In December of 2015, Zach Fields, then construction teacher at Roswell High school, reached out to Jenny Horton, President of Collins and Arnold Construction Company, LLC, asking for metal drywall studs for a project with his students. Fields wanted his students to build the framework for an electrical panel in a commercial setting. After receiving his request, Horton reached out to her drywall contractors, non-AGC Georgia member, Commercial Drywall who immediately called their supplier and ordered enough new studs to fill Fields' order.

Henry County College & Career Academy

In February, Henry County Academy for Advanced Studies' instructor Doug Lee began a project on framing and building with his second year construction/carpentry classes. After realizing he needed 70 eight foot studs and 10 bundles of shingles, he contacted Joe Tuggle, Swofford Construction, Inc. Tuggle found donors for all items needed for the students to complete their projects.



East Georgia High Schools

At the February East Georgia Workforce Development Alliance meeting, Scott Clark, R. W. Allen, LLC, announced that each program sending students to the state SkillsUSA Competition would receive a \$500 check from the AGC Georgia Foundation to help purchase supplies to prepare for the event. These direct contributions are from the balance raised by Clark's team in preparation for the East Georgia Skills Challenge in November. High schools receiving checks included: Burke County High School, East Laurens High School, Evans High School, Grovetown High School, Hephzibah High School, Jefferson County High School, Statesboro High School, West Laurens High School, and Washington County High School.

Spalding County High School

Chad Pruitt, Construction Technology Instructor, wants his students to build a tiny house project by the end of the 2016 school year. The project idea included building the walls and floors, laying a step stringer, sheathing the exterior, learning about materials and fasteners, and conclude with painting the house. Pruitt did not have the necessary materials required to complete the project, so he contacted Joe Tuggle, Swofford Construction, Inc., who looked to the AGC Georgia Young Leadership Program (YLP). The flagship program delivered all materials to the school as well as a check to help fund additional purchases for the project.

Casey Pollard, R. K. Redding Construction, delivers a check to Spalding County High School (left). Students proudly accept materials donated by AGC Georgia YLP (right).



Mary Helen Purcell, Marketing Coordinator, and Scott Clark, President, of R. W. Allen, LLC deliver checks to Evans High School, Hephzibah High School, and Jefferson County High School (pictured from top to bottom).



"I can't thank them enough for not only the donation but for what they do for my students and my classroom. Associated General Contractors (AGC) are forming partnerships throughout the state with its member companies and local school systems to get the word out that they want our students."
Chad Pruitt, Spalding County High School



Dear industry partners,

Thank you for your continued support of Bulloch County Schools. We appreciate you sending two of your service technicians to install the air compressor at Statesboro High School. This air compressor is needed to run labs in our construction, logistics, agriculture, engineering, and manufacturing courses. The funds that we would have used to replace the broken air compressor can now be used in other ways to support our CTAE programs.

We also appreciate you providing lunch for our students when they visited your prefabrication shop (Mock Plumbing) earlier in the year. These kinds of experiences are invaluable and help students see real world applications of what they are learning in our construction courses. Industry partnerships are vital to ensure that we continually develop our workforce. We appreciate your support and value our partnership with you.

*Teresa Phillips
Career, Technical, Agriculture
Education Director
Bulloch County Schools*

*Ken LeCain
Principal
Statesboro High School*



Pictured: Daniel Tucker, Mock Plumbing hosts Statesboro High School students at their prefabrication shop. During the visit, students learned what each machine does and the role it plays in pre-construction.

Schools appreciate the work our members are doing with their students. Above is an excerpt from a letter written to Mock Plumbing thanking them for all they have done.

Have your own success story?

Please share it with Bill Chambless at chambless@agcga.org.

Good Workforce Development is Good Economic Development

Southern Crescent Workforce Development Alliance



Based on recent successes with the East Georgia Skills Challenge and Macon Careers in Construction Day, the Southern Crescent Workforce Development Alliance is working to hold a Mock Skills Competition next year for local students. *Attending this planning meeting held in March at the World of Construction Event were (l-r) DJ Hurm, Mary Persons High School; Walter Preston, Griffin High School; Joe Tuggle, Swofford Construction, Inc., Chad Pruitt, Spalding County High School; Jim Steel, Crisp County High School; Rod Owen, C. C. Owen Tile Co., Inc.; Gary Faulkner, Hutchings College & Career Academy; and Bill Chambless, AGC Georgia.*

Central Georgia Workforce Development Alliance



After many years of hosting a Careers in Construction Day each September, Central Georgia is adding a mock skills challenge to the day's events. During a recent meeting at Central Georgia Technical College, the alliance appointed instructors to help in the efforts to get all school involved.

AGC Georgia/TCSG Coordination Meeting



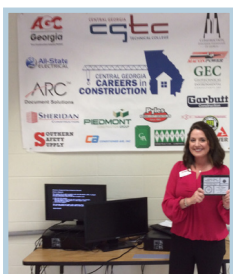
On February 19, Mike Dunham, AGC Georgia; Mike Kenig, Holder Construction Company; Kenny Adkins, Curriculum Specialist with the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG); Joe Dan Banker, Executive Director of Academic Affairs with TCSG (*pictured l-r*); and Bill Chambless, AGC Georgia, (*not pictured*); discussed how the industry can help the state's technical institutions move construction curriculum forward. AGC Georgia is learning the wide variety of programs that are taught at each system and ways to earn certificates of achievement, diplomas or associate degrees.

NCCER Forum at CEFGA Worlds of Construction



During CEFGA's annual Worlds of Construction Expo, the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) invited over 30 individuals representing the TCSG, DOE, technical colleges, industry professionals, AGC Georgia Board members, and AGC Georgia staff members, Mike Dunham, Mark Woodall, and Bill Chambless, to discuss the importance of certification and alignment of construction education program between K-12 and post-secondary institutions. Mike Dunham and Zach Fields, CEFGA, made a presentation during the forum.

CTAE Meeting



Tony Varamo, MetroPower, Inc., received an Outstanding Service Award from Gary Faulkner, instructor at Hutchings College & Career Academy, for his many years of support for the program and others in the region by providing internships and apprenticeship opportunities of students. Deanna Jones, *pictured to the right*, accepted the award on Tony's behalf.



Regional SkillsUSA Competitions

Students placing regionally advanced to the State SkillsUSA Championship held in conjunction with CEFGA's Worlds of Construction on March 18, 2016.

As a national, nonprofit student organization, SkillsUSA, helps develop students to become workers after graduation. Through their partnership with employers and educators, SkillsUSA has helped produce more than 10 million workers nationwide who exemplify the attitude of "Champions at Work."

Students across the country compete at SkillsUSA Championships every year with hopes to make it to Nationals in Louisville, Kentucky. Before they can make it to the National Championship, they must compete locally at regional competitions then at the state competition held in College Park at the Georgia International Convention Center. The state championship is held in conjunction with the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia's (CEFGA) Worlds of Construction, formerly CEFGA CareerExpo. Going into its tenth year as a combined event, Worlds of Construction and SkillsUSA State Championships is regarded as one of the nation's top construction and SkillsUSA events. Each year, the event attracts more than 300 companies and 7,000 attendees to witness more than 20 skilled trades competitions in a 200,000 square foot exhibit hall.

"We are very thankful for your support. I believe you all are making a great investment in our students."

Antonio Young, Construction Teacher

Washington County High School

Each year, our members work closely with local schools and SkillsUSA to organize the regional competitions. From donating money to serving as judges, AGC Georgia members know the importance of working with students to prepare them for a future in the construction industry. To learn more about how you can get involved in 2017, contact Bill Chambless at chambless@agcga.org or 478-972-5865.

Region 1

On Friday, January 29, 2016, students across Northwest Georgia gathered to participate in the Region 1 SkillsUSA competition. Over 500 people attended the event including students and educators from 23 local school, judges, and industry professionals.

AGC Georgia, along with members Duffey Southeast, Inc. and Polk County Public Service contributed time, money, and materials to make this event possible. *Pictured below, students compete in the carpentry and electrical divisions.*



Region 2

Representatives of AGC Georgia members firms Bowen & Watson, Inc., Carroll Daniel Construction Co., Swofford Construction, Inc., and The Travelers Companies, Inc. attended the Region 2 SkillsUSA competition held at North Georgia Technical College. Paul Morrison, Swofford Construction, Inc., served as a judge for the carpentry division. At the conclusion of the day's

events, our members felt the competitors deserved tangible prizes. The group provided tools for students placing first, second, and third in construction related events next year.

Members in Northeast Georgia used this event as a time to interact with instructors and begin laying the ground work to kick off the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Alliance this April.



Students participate in the masonry competition.

Region 3

The Region 3 SkillsUSA Competition was held on February 5, 2016 at Atlanta Technical College.

Region 4

On Friday, January 22, 2016, the Region 4 SkillsUSA Competition was held in LaGrange, Georgia at West Georgia Technical College.

Region 5

Members Rod Owen, C. C. Owen Tile Co., Inc., and Joe Tuggle, Swofford Construction, spent February 4, 2016 at the Region 5 SkillsUSA Competition in Griffin. The duo spoke with high school teachers as well as Southern Crescent Technical College instructors to gauge interest in holding a mock skills challenge later this year in preparation for 2017.

Region 6

Students from east Georgia gathered on Friday, January 22, 2016 at the Oconee Fall Line Technical College to compete at the Region 6 SkillsUSA Competition. Members in the area donated money and materials to help host a successful event. Garbutt Construction Co. and Lentile Construction Co. split the cost for materials used in the carpentry division while Dublin Construction Co., Inc. provided funds for the plumbing division. In addition to materials provided, R. W. Allen, LLC and Garbutt Construction Co. donated \$500 and \$600, respectively. These donated funds were used by the AGC Georgia Foundation to purchase tool kits for students placing 1st, 2nd, and 3rd in the carpentry, electrical, plumbing, and masonry divisions. Click [here](#) to watch highlights from the day's events or visit <http://bit.ly/1MMLq5d>.

Besides donating money, members also donated their time. Doug Bethea, Garbutt Construction Co., served as a carpentry judge at the event (see below).



Region 7

The Region 7 SkillsUSA Competition was held on February 5, 2016 at Moultrie Technical College.

Region 8

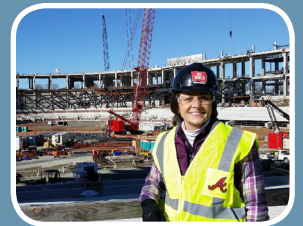
On February 5, 2016 in Brunswick, the Region 8 SkillsUSA Competition was held at Golden Isles Career Academy.

Partner with DOE & TCSG

Last quarter, the Career Technical Agriculture Education (CTAE) Department of the Georgia Department of Education (DOE) asked their leadership to participate in externships throughout the state. Within the CTAE department, personnel are grouped by industry sectors, and Carol Burke, a program specialist, works extensively with academic institutions offering construction curriculum. Carol is a great friend and advocate for AGC Georgia and passionate about finding new ways to reach young people and introduce them to careers in construction.

During her externship, she visited with seasoned AGC Georgia member professionals with the goals of learning more about the construction process, understanding skill sets firms look for in candidates seeking field jobs and the structure and dedication needed to provide a safe jobsite. She also wanted to talk to industry representatives to discuss how agency, academic and construction firm leadership can work together to promote construction careers.

AGC Georgia helped schedule jobsite tours for Carol at the new Atlanta Falcons home, Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and the new Atlanta Braves stadium, SunTrust Park. Thank you to Steve Necessary, Safety Director at Holder Construction Company, for walking the Falcons stadium with Carol. She also spent time at Holder's office learning about the hiring process. During the same day, Carol met with Lisa Capicik for a tour of the Braves' project. She is regional safety director for Brasfield & Gorrie, and the safety director for American Builders 2017, the joint venture firm constructing SunTrust Park.



For several years, AGC Georgia has dedicated a significant portion of our resources, talent and energy to cultivating an open dialogue with leaders at the Department of Education and the Technical College System of Georgia (TCSG). We strongly believe it takes a partnership between our contractor members, DOE and TCSG leaders, and construction instructors at local institutions and AGC Georgia association staff to make a difference in how we work to develop a sustainable pipeline of construction talent.

Recently, AGC Georgia and the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA) were presented with a unique opportunity to continue building our relationship with DOE representatives and share why we want to further streamline curriculum for the state's construction programs. During a DOE Budget Committee meeting, Mike Dunham, AGC Georgia's CEO, and Zach Fields, CEFGA's director of school relations, were offered 15 minutes to present their thoughts on this subject. After 45 minutes, committee members were still open to learning about our organizations' perspectives. Attending this meeting in support of AGC Georgia and CEFGA included Jenny Horton, Collins and Arnold Construction; Ryan Byars, Holder Construction Co.; John Dougherty, Pyramid Masonry; Tony Varamo, MetroPower; Jody Klodner, Marek Drywall; Rod Owen, CC Owen Tile Co., Inc.; Chuck Little, AECA.

Of particular interest to the committee is CEFGA's role as the accrediting body for NCCER certification and recertification of DOE construction programs throughout the state. The committee members were very open to suggestions of working toward offering the same construction curriculum throughout the state by having all programs certified, not just those that volunteer. AGC Georgia and CEFGA believe it is extremely unfortunate for students not to be exposed to skills that directly relate to the current job market simply because their instructor or administration doesn't value accreditation or they have budgetary constraints. We also believe consistency of NCCER curriculum and certification provides greater opportunities for dual enrollment and utilizing Georgia's new Move On When Ready program with the TCSG.

At the end of the meeting, the committee members challenged AGC Georgia and CEFGA to look into the level of DOE funding and manpower it would take to get 100% certification. We gladly accepted the challenge and look forward to working with them on this matter in the near future.



Mike Royal, Chairman of the State Board of Education, accepted an invitation to speak at the March 2016 AGC Georgia Board of Directors meeting. Each year this meeting is held in conjunction with CEFGA's Worlds of Construction Expo and Georgia's SkillsUSA state competition. In his leadership role with the Department of Education, Mr. Royal is eager to work with industry to find innovative ways to introduce more young people enrolled in Georgia's k-12 system to skilled trades.