

Workforce Development Update

Members Making a Difference



WHAT'S INSIDE

In the Classroom	p. 2
MAGIC Camp	p. 4
Camp T&I	p. 5
Statewide Initiatives	p. 6
Skills USA	p. 7
Upcoming Events	p. 8

For information on how to get involved or learn more about AGC Georgia's workforce development initiatives, contact Bill Chambless at 478-972-5865 or chambless@agcga.org.



More than 40 construction teachers from around the state attended this year's Camp T&I in Brunswick. AGC Georgia members were key supporters of the hands-on training conference. See full story on page 5.

In the Classroom

In May, Jeff Bearinger's class at Lumpkin County High School completed construction on their Habitat for Humanity home. Students began the project in August 2016. This project is the largest lab experiment Lumpkin County construction students have undertaken. Based on the success of this year's project, Bearinger has decided next year's class will also build a Habitat for Humanity home.

In April, Joe Tuggle with Swofford Construction, Inc. delivered bags of Carotex to Paul Fussell, a construction teacher at Fulton Schools College and Career Academy and Ben Lowe, a teacher at Upson-Lee High School. The Carotex was donated by Oldcastle.

Last September, AGC Georgia began an eight-month customized Supervisory Training Program (STP) through Oconee Fall Line Technical College in order to address the critical shortage of construction supervisors. On May 8, ten students who completed all six units of STP participated in a graduation ceremony at OFTC's South Campus in Dublin. Nearly 20 other students completed one or more units and their accomplishments were recognized as well.

"The thing we've spent our most time on the last few years is workforce development," said Mike Dunham, CEO of AGC Georgia, while addressing the graduates. "We don't have enough people entering the industry and that's one reason you should be proud of what you've done here. You took the challenge and you're going to have a bright future."

Mimosa Elementary School in Fulton County is a feeder to Roswell High School which has an accomplished construction program. In an effort to cultivate interest in construction at an early age and continue involvement throughout high school, Roswell High is working with elementary and middle schools to establish construction clubs. One of the first clubs created is at Mimosa Elementary School.

Mimosa Elementary School after school construction club.

Last year, Batson-Cook Construction adopted Atlanta's Alonzo A. Crim Open Campus High School as its Workforce Development partner. Jimmy Kennedy, a project executive with the firm, took the lead and formed an alliance with two dozen Batson-Cook trade partners to build out and equip a construction lab and classroom at the high school. The group toured the facility in May 2016, developed a plan and schedule over the summer, and began construction in October. Students worked alongside Kennedy and other team members, thereby gaining valuable hands-on experience in carpentry, framing, painting, and electrical trades. The team recently celebrated their success with a ribbon-cutting ceremony in April 2017. Other AGC Georgia member firms partnering with Batson-Cook at Crim include:

- All-State Electrical Contractors
- Argos USA
- Gibson Landscape
- Le May Electric Inc.
- Parrish Construction Group
- Sovereign Construction & Development





Paul Fussell, a teacher with Fulton Schools College and Career Academy receives a donation of Carotex courtesy of Swofford Construction and Oldcastle.



Supervisory Training Program graduates, Unit Completers and Instructors with Charlie Garbutt, Roger Byrd and other OFTC leaders.



Grand opening ceremony for Crim High School Construction Lab. (l-r) Dawn Parker, principal, Randy Hall, Jimmy Kennedy, Nancy Black with Batson-Cook and Richard Elder, program instructor.



Dan Smith (l) and Adam Cobb (r) with New South Construction Company speak to third grade students at Kemp Elementary School.

A new co-op agreement signed at Central Georgia Technical College between the Electronics Technology program and ACE Technologies will soon have a select group of students working with and shadowing seasoned technicians.

This partnership allows ACE Technologies to work with formally trained students from the college in a real-world, hands-on setting with the possibility of employment upon completion of the co-op period and graduation from their program of study. The company has a newly opened facility in Macon where students will spend the majority of their time working and learning.

“This is really a living and active co-op agreement,” said Dr. Jeffrey Hoffman, instructor of Electronics Technology. “We are gaining our bearings as we move along. Because our students have active skills, they can provide something to ACE that is greater than a clean slate.”

Students with the gifted program at Kemp Elementary School in Cobb County had a unit on construction of the new SunTrust Park. For a semester, they discussed the elements required to build a baseball stadium and at the conclusion two employees from New South Construction Company (Adam Cobb, Senior Project Manager and Dan Smith, CFO) visited and were interviewed by students on their roles in the construction of the stadium.

Have a story you want to share in this quarterly newsletter?

**Send a summary and photos to
Bill Chambless,
Member Development Specialist
at chambless@agcga.org.**

MAGIC Camp - Macon 2017



For five days in June, 19 female high-schoolers attended Mentoring a Girl in Construction (MAGIC) camp at Hutchings College & Career Academy in Macon, GA. MAGIC is a free, nationwide summer camp designed to offer high school girls the opportunity to learn about the various avenues of employment available to women in the construction industry. The girls are engaged in hands-on training in basic construction skills and female industry leaders are brought in to speak throughout the week. This year's speakers included AGC Georgia member Batson-Cook's Lucy Barksdale, Neha Dugal, and Teja Velagapudi.

The first day of camp is an overview of the week's activities and a program on safety. Each day thereafter, the girls are introduced to carpentry, electrical, plumbing and welding. The girls complete a project in each trade. On the last day of camp, parents are invited to attend a banquet where the girls showcase their projects.

For this year's MAGIC Camp, \$1000 was donated by AGC Georgia Foundation.



Employees of Batson-Cook share information about their careers with MAGIC camp participants. (l-r) Lucy Barksdale, Teja Velagapudi and Neha Dugal.



Camp Trade & Industrial

On June 7, more than 40 construction teachers from around the state gathered at the Golden Isles College and Career Academy in Brunswick, GA for Camp Trade & Industrial (T & I). Over the course of three days, the teachers received hands-on training, participated in team building and role playing exercises, and shared best practices in masonry, concrete, metal stud framing, plumbing, and electrical. Camp attendance helps elevate instructors' classroom curriculum and ultimately leads to growth of Georgia's construction programs.

This spring, AGC Georgia reached out to members asking them to support our "Adopt Your Instructor" campaign where they could contribute \$250 to the AGC Georgia

Foundation to help offset costs for their local construction instructor to attend the conference. AGC Georgia members also attended to network with instructors and share their industry expertise. Member facilitators also provide information about employability/soft skills students need to do their best during interviews and as a member of a jobsite team. This comprehensive training is very unique and vital to the future success of construction education.

Members provided over \$7,000 in contributions to the AGC Georgia Foundation through the "Adopt Your Instructor" campaign. These funds were used to support all aspects of hosting the 2017 Camp T & I.

"Camp T&I is the best training for program instructors. The camaraderie and networking is priceless. I appreciate AGC Georgia and the contractors who donated their time, efforts, and resources to help make this year a wonderful success. I am already looking forward to next year."

Paul Grantham
Construction Teacher
Hardaway High School

"Of all the training I attend, the one conference I look forward to the most is the Camp T&I program each summer. I know that the quality of the programs, the fellowship with other teachers, and the hands-on activities will be well worth my time. As a construction teacher, I need to stay current with industry needs and practices. This is my annual opportunity to refresh and learn."

Jim Steel, Construction Teacher
Crisp County High School



Thank you for Supporting Camp T & I!

- ✦ Ace Electric, Inc.
- ✦ Allen & Graham, Inc.
- ✦ R. W. Allen, LLC
- ✦ Batson-Cook Company
- ✦ Collins and Arnold Construction Co., LLC
- ✦ Gold Mech, Inc.
- ✦ Holder Construction Co.
- ✦ Inglett & Stubbs, LLC
- ✦ JCI Contractors
- ✦ JE Dunn Construction
- ✦ MetroPower, Inc.
- ✦ Mock Plumbing and Mechanical, Inc.
- ✦ Pellicano Construction
- ✦ Piedmont Construction Group
- ✦ Pyramid Masonry Contractors
- ✦ R. K. Redding Construction, Inc.
- ✦ Sheridan Construction
- ✦ Swofford Construction, Inc.
- ✦ The Sack Company
- ✦ ULTRA Commercial Interiors
- ✦ Rives E. Worrell Co., Inc., Member JE Dunn Construction

Statewide Initiatives

An advisory committee for East and West Laurens High Schools met on May 30. AGC Georgia member Tim Lentile, Lentile Construction Company, attended the meeting and addressed the group on the necessity of soft skills and preparing students for today's job market.

At the Southern Crescent/Central Georgia Workforce Development meeting on April 13, it was suggested that a pool of eligible students for hire should be shared with AGC Georgia. AGC Georgia was asked to share this information with members in the area where each student lives in an effort to help them gain employment. By April 28, the plan was implemented and three students had been contacted by interested parties. Yvonne Angelo with the Bibb County School District said, "I am so impressed with the turnaround time and how quickly the contractors responded to the resumes. I am very excited about where this will lead as the momentum continues!"

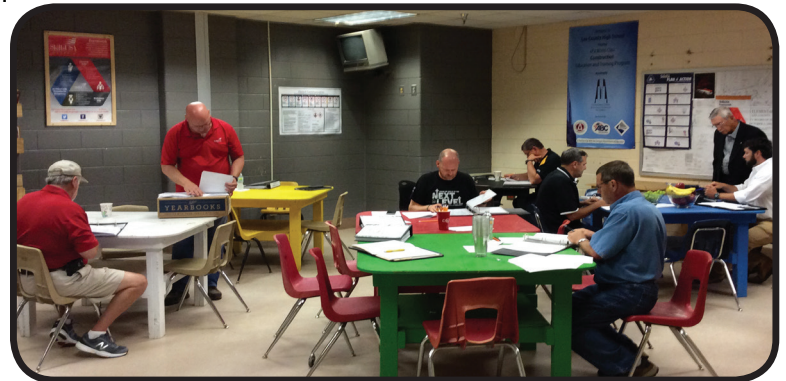
In May, Lee County High School began the renewal process for their Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) certification. The accreditation is a voluntary evaluation and improvement process for schools that teach construction in Georgia. CEFGA is the state-level business/industry association which serves as co-sponsor (along with the Georgia Department of Education). High school programs are evaluated on organization and administration; learning resources; instructors; students; facilities and services; and industry involvement.

AGC Georgia CEO Mike Dunham and Member Services Specialist Bill Chambless spoke in July at the 70th annual Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education Summer Leadership Conference. GACTE encourages and organizes teachers to become a part of a collective voice that can influence issues and policies that impact career, technical, and agricultural (CTAE) education.

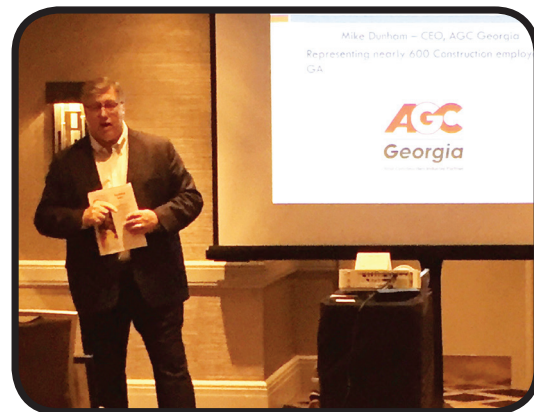
Mike presented a session about how important K12 construction education programs are to the future of building a sustainable pipeline of talented workers for Georgia's commercial construction industry.



The East and West Laurens High Schools Advisory Committee meets to provide industry support for construction programs.



A team of industry representatives, selected by CEFGA and AGC Georgia, works to recertify Lee County High School's construction program.



AGC Georgia CEO Mike Dunham speaks at the 70th annual Georgia Association for Career and Technical Education Summer Leadership Conference.

SkillsUSA

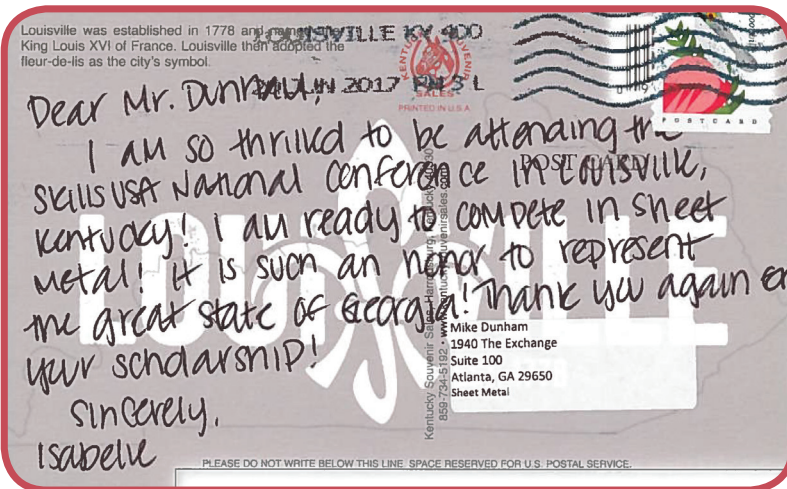
The 53rd annual National Leadership and Skills Conference (NLSC) took place in Louisville, KY June 19-23. The conference was a showcase for career and technical education students. More than 6,000 students competed in 100 different trade, technical and leadership fields.

AGC Georgia helped several dozen local students attend by way of scholarships contributed by the AGC Georgia Foundation. Many students wrote thank you notes to Mike Dunham, AGC Georgia's CEO, expressing their gratitude for the opportunity to attend this national event and compete.

Students who placed first at the SkillsUSA Georgia competitions, which took place during the CEFGA Career Expo in March 2017 at the Georgia International Convention Center, advanced to the national competition.



Postcards from Louisville!

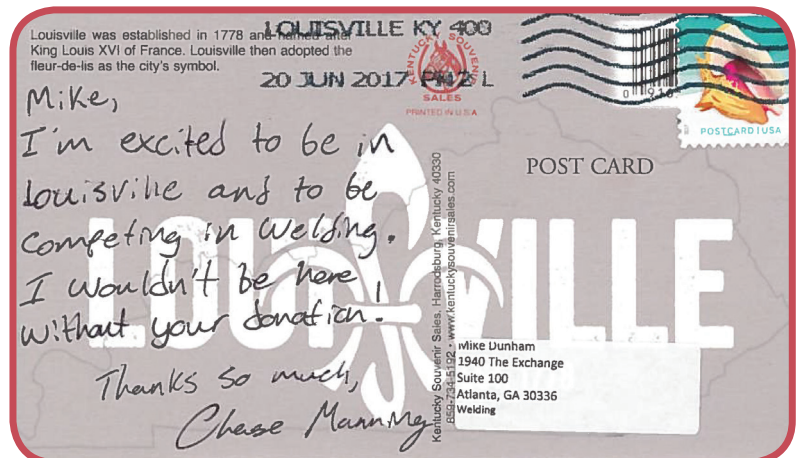


"I am very excited to finally be in Louisville and competing for carpentry. I want to thank you for your support. I have been practicing and hope to bring home that gold medal!"

"I am ready to compete in welding fabrication! I have been practicing and working very hard to represent myself, my school, and Georgia. Thank you again for the scholarship that got me here!"

"I've practiced over the past two years for this moment to compete on the national level in masonry! Thank you so much for your scholarship and making this possible for me."

"Thank you very much for providing this great opportunity and wonderful experience to be able to attend the SkillsUSA conference. I hope to make you proud."





AGC **Georgia**

Your Construction Industry Partner

Mark Your Calendar

Events listed below and on the web are looking for sponsors and industry participants.

Meet your future workforce at the source! For more information about upcoming

Workforce Development events, please visit www.agcga.org/WFDCalendar.

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| 8/8 | East Georgia Workforce Development Alliance Meeting - Augusta | 11/2 | Southern Crescent & Central Georgia Skills Challenge - Griffin |
| 8/10 | Central Georgia/Southern Crescent Workforce Alliance Meeting - Macon | 11/9 | Northeast Georgia Skills Challenge - TBD |
| 8/15 | South & Southwest Georgia Skills Challenge Planning Meeting - Moultrie | 11/13 | Tenth Annual Business and Education Summit - Griffin |
| 8/22 | Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Alliance Meeting - Gainesville | 11/16 | East Georgia Skills Challenge - Augusta |
| | | 11/30 | South & Southwest Georgia Skills Challenge - Moultrie |