



WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Skills Challenge Builds on its Success to Attract Future Workforce

Planning groups making a difference at the five regional events

It's no surprise to AGC Georgia members that it takes diligent planning, hard work and a team effort to make any project a success. Well, it's no different when organizing five Workforce Development Alliance Skills Challenges across the state during a four-week period.

Members of our Alliances coordinate hundreds of volunteers, as well as the planning and execution of the regional events recently held in Augusta, Cedartown, Gainesville, Macon and Moultrie along with on-site judges at each competition.



The Skills Challenge events continue to grow exponentially each year with a record number of schools and participants, as well as increased sponsorship support from the industry.

"The connections we're making with these students at the Skills Challenges will positively impact our industry for years to come," said Mike Dunham, CEO of AGC Georgia. "None of this would be possible without the undeniable support and year-round effort our volunteers put into making these events happen."



Please read inside for more details and the winners from each of the Challenges.

2019 SKILLS CHALLENGE TOTALS

Competing schools: 81	24.61% ▲
Student Competitors: 742	22.24% ▲
Total Contributions: \$205,000	59.48% ▲
Sponsoring Firms: 236	43% ▲

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- Expanding the Pipeline
- Material Donations
- Jobsite Tours
- T.E.S.T. Academy
- Plus, Much More, Including Skills Challenge Results

RA-LIN Teaches HS Construction Class

Since August 2019, leaders at RA-LIN have partnered with Carrollton City Schools to provide students a hands-on learning experience in construction. Ten students (juniors and seniors) were selected to be part of the inaugural program. They meet each school day from 8:30am – noon at the RA-LIN corporate headquarters. The program's goal is to introduce students to a variety of trades and spark their interest in construction careers.

"The students know very little on the first day of the semester," said Chris Stone of RA-LIN. "We have an opportunity to teach them for about 15 hours a week with the proper equipment and guidance needed to help them succeed in this industry."

Throughout their first semester, students have applied their knowledge by participating in a Habitat for Humanity home build. Several students also competed in the Northwest Georgia Skills Challenges to gain more first-hand experience.

"This is not a shop class," said Stone. "Everything builds on the next activity. A school bus brings the students daily to RA-LIN. And, if we need to go where the action is, they get us to a worksite. We are not teaching out of a book, rather we are sharing the knowledge we seek when we hire."

The class can be a stepping-stone between high school and a career in construction. Students become comfortable with the worksite culture, industry vocabulary and

benefit from the expertise of industry veterans. Along with the invaluable hands-on training they receive, the students are also mentored in various ways to continue their construction-related education after high school.

"It could be considered a nine-month long interview," said Stone. "Some seniors will receive full-time employment and some juniors may be offered summer internships. Without hesitation, I believe this program is making a big difference for us and the students."



ACE Electric: Expanding the Pipeline

Recruiting future electricians at the high school level is a critical factor in sustaining the workforce demand. ACE Electric has made an ongoing commitment to offer work-based learning, job shadowing and summer internships for Lowndes High School students who are interested in pursuing a career in commercial electrical construction.

ACE also works closely with several of the Skills Challenge events hosted across the state by AGC Georgia. The firm has developed a program for Wiregrass Georgia Technical College and Ogeechee Technical College. ACE Technologies, a division of the company, has a low voltage program at Central Georgia Technical College.

"We are no longer just competing with other electrical contractors for employees," says Nichole Shanks, Workforce Development Manager with ACE Electric. "With the number of jobs far exceeding the number of available workers, we are competing with every industry." According to Shanks, for every three workers that leave a skilled trade position, only one new employee is hired.

During their first year working with Lowndes High School, nine students were selected to participate in ACE Electric's summer internship program. "We believe the summer internships are a great way to kick off the new program and partner with

Lowndes High School and Wiregrass Georgia Technical College," says Shanks.

Jason VanNus, a system coordinator for work-based learning and the youth apprenticeship program at Lowndes High School, says the summer internship with ACE Electric served as a vetting process to see if students wanted to pursue a registered apprenticeship in electrical construction.



He was pleased with the summer internship results, as all nine students continue to work at ACE Electric, with six enrolled as registered apprentices, and seven as dual enrollment students through Wiregrass Georgia Tech. Including high school apprentices, ACE Electric has 10 registered apprentices.

Henry County Academy for Advanced Studies



Not long ago, Doug Lee, an instructor from Henry County Academy for Advanced Studies learned his construction class budget was being cut. With a desire to keep his class going, Lee reached out to Joe Tuggle, president of Swofford Construction, and asked if he could help him secure needed materials for his classroom. Tuggle turned to the Central Georgia Workforce Alliance fund within the AGC Georgia Foundation and purchased \$2,200 worth of supplies for the classroom.

These funds are made possible by the tremendous support of industry firms that sponsor the annual Central Georgia/Southern Crescent Skills Challenge. All proceeds remaining after the annual event's expenses are paid are available to support regional construction classrooms.

Additionally, Swofford Construction donated steel from one of their jobsites in Stockbridge to the Academy to help their welding students with lab projects.

RW Allen Hosts Jobsite Tour for Students

Lincoln County High School (a member of the East Georgia Workforce Development Alliance) toured RW Allen's Presbyterian Village jobsite in September. Students enrolled in LCHS's construction program and three instructors participated in the visit.

During the site tour, RW Allen superintendents taught the students about plumbing and electrical. The welders in the group were able to watch the mechanical mezzanine in the Village Center being erected. Student carpenters learned more about commercial wood framing in the building.

The RW Allen crew appreciated the opportunity to bring the classroom to life for the students.



Bowen & Watson Hosts Student Tour



As part of October's Careers in Construction Month, Bowen & Watson Superintendent Henry Holland led Stephens County High School construction program students on a hard-hat tour of the CTAE facilities currently under construction. The students learned about the project and career pathways in the construction industry. Brad Randall, the school's construction program instructor, hosted the event.

Sheridan Hutchings Donation

Sheridan Construction donated bricks and lumber to W. S. Hutchings College and Career Academy in Macon to help the school's construction students prepare for the 2019 Skills Challenge. Pictured is school instructor Scottie Spradlin, students and Sheridan employees Doug Parker and Justin Johnson.



GHS Pipeline to the Tile Industry

CC. Owen Tile Company is proud of their relationship with Griffin High School (GHS). For the past three years, C.C. Owen employees have visited Walter Preston's second-year construction class. Following the firm's recent presentation, three students expressed interest in working in the tile industry. The company has proudly hired three GHS students who are great ambassadors to the high school students.



The T.E.S.T Academy

In early October, Bibb County middle school students participated in a three-day academy at the Central Georgia Technical College Macon Campus. This program introduced them to different aspects of the skilled trades and engineering industries. Through the partnership with CGTC, Sheridan Construction, All-State Electrical, Greene & Associates, and the Central Georgia Council, students participated in hands-on activities focused on the many responsibilities of Architects, Design Engineers, Electricians/ Technicians, Construction Workers/Contractors, Automotive Technicians, and HVAC Technicians & Plumbers. On

the last day, the students put their new skills to work on a group project.

Several Technology and Engineering & Skilled Trades professionals have expressed concern about Central Georgia lacking a pool of qualified talent available to join these specific industries. In a response to this need, each partner committed to provide these students with insight into these industries and professions through this T.E.S.T Academy.





October 31, 2019

Macon Farmers Market
Macon, Ga

Host Partners

Sheridan Construction
Swofford Construction, Inc.

Overall Winning Schools

1st Place: Camden County High School
2nd Place: Lee County High School
3rd Place: Mary Persons High School

Blueprint Reading

1st Place: Patrick Ford, Mary Persons High School
2nd Place: Briana Grant, Lee County High School
3rd Place: Ethan Mays, Griffin College
and Career Academy

Carpentry

1st Place: Taylor Fisher, Camden County High School
2nd Place: Tye Smith, Lee County High School
3rd Place: Michael Whatley, Harris County High School

Electrical

1st Place: Seth Horn, Camden County High School
2nd Place: Peyton Horne, Camden County High School
3rd Place: Jordan Colon, Harris County High School

Masonry

1st Place: Bailey Evanson, Camden County High School
2nd Place: Walker Carawen, Jackson High School
3rd Place: Michael Griffin, Camden County High School

Plumbing

1st Place: Caleb Harris, Lee County High School
2nd Place: Gunnar James, Mary Persons High School
3rd Place: Peyton Matthews, Lee County High School

Roofing

1st Place: Michael Head, Mary Persons High School
2nd Place: Cameron Denny, Harris County High School
3rd Place: Patrick Dollar, Lee County High School

Welding

1st Place: Willie Williams Willis, Jordan Vocational
High School
2nd Place: Jacob Brooks, Jones County High School
3rd Place: Chequoreana Arnold, Jordan Vocational
High School

CENTRAL GEORGIA & SOUTHERN CRESCENT Workforce Development Alliances' Skills Challenge



19

COMPETING
SCHOOLS

162

STUDENT
COMPETITORS

136

STUDENT
OBSERVERS

MORE THAN \$35,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS



NORTHEAST GEORGIA

Workforce Development Alliance's Skills Challenge



16

COMPETING
SCHOOLS

168

STUDENT
COMPETITORS

~250

STUDENT
OBSERVERS

MORE THAN \$31,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS



**SKILLS
CHALLENGE**

**AGC
Georgia**

November 8, 2019

Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center
Gainesville, Ga

Host Partners

Bowen & Watson, Inc.
Carroll Daniel Construction Company

Overall Winning School

1st Place: Roswell High School

Blueprint Reading

1st Place: Gisselle Perez, Roswell High School
2nd Place: Saul Evazo, Cherokee Bluff High School
3rd Place: Jose Negrete, Johnson High School

Broadcast News Production

1st Place: Chestatee High School
2nd Place: Johnson High School
3rd Place: Roswell High School

Cabinet Making

1st Place: Clayton Pierce,
Lumpkin County High School

2nd Place: Luis Padilla, Johnson High School
3rd Place: Alan Gutierrez, Lanier College
and Career Academy

Carpentry

1st Place: Ethan Forston,
Madison County High School
2nd: Josh Lopez, Johnson High School
3rd Place: Daniel Miller,
Madison County High School

Construction Careers Display

1st Place: Seth Franklin, Lanier College
and Career Academy
2nd Place: Ashley Perez, West Hall High School
3rd Place: Jackson Folkerts,
Cherokee Bluff High School

Electrical

1st Place: Alexis Hernandez, West Hall High School
2nd Place: Chris Elza, Roswell High School
3rd Place: John Dowdy, Lumpkin County High School

HVAC

1st Place: Jackson Davis, Lanier College
and Career Academy
2nd Place: Angel Amezucua, Johnson High School
3rd Place: Jackson Knepper, Lanier College
and Career Academy

Masonry

1st Place: Jacob Tucker, Madison County
High School
2nd Place: Mason Gee, West Hall High School
3rd Place: Domingo Juan, Lanier College
and Career Academy

Plumbing

1st Place: Kevin Aderhold,
Stevens County High School
2nd Place: Amber Bridges, Madison County
High School
3rd Place: Tyler Potts, Roswell High School

Team Works

1st Place: Miguel Henderson, Roswell High School
2nd Place: Nolan Chandler,
Madison County High School
3rd: Danny Sanchez, Johnson High School

Welding

1st Place: Noah Volis, Floyd College
and Career Academy
2nd Place: Jacob Vinson, Floyd College
and Career Academy
3rd Place: Jonathon Wilbanks, North Hall
High School



November 12, 2019

Sunbelt AG Expo
Moultrie, Ga

Host Partners

JCI Contractors
Tulsa Welding School, Jacksonville

Overall Construction Cup

Camden County High School

Blueprint Reading

- 1st Place: Robert Davis, Camden County High School
- 2nd Place: Brennen Silveous, Camden County High School
- 3rd Place: CJ Cotto, Harris County High School

Carpentry

- 1st Place: JT Harbin, Colquitt County High School
- 2nd Place: Tye Smith, Lee County High School
- 3rd Place: Dakota Goodrum, Brooks County High School

Electrical

- 1st Place: Jordan Colon, Harris County High School
- 2nd Place: Taunton Pierce, Bainbridge High School
- 3rd Place: Robert Mitchell, Colquitt County High School

Masonry

- 1st Place: Bailey Evanson, Camden County High School
- 2nd Place: Michael Griffin, Camden County High School
- 3rd Place: Dale Willis, Lee County High School

Plumbing

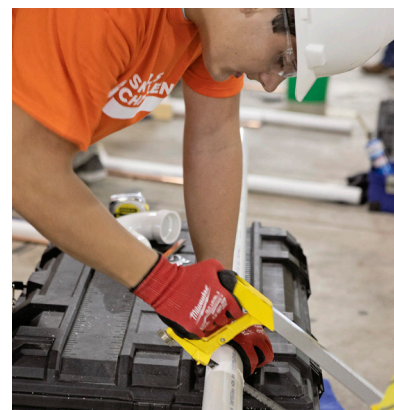
- 1st Place: Hunter Anderson, Harris County High School
- 2nd Place: Caleb Harris, Lee County High School
- 3rd Place: Alex Nichols, Crisp County High School

Welding

- 1st Place: Evan Merritt, Wiregrass College and Career Academy
- 2nd Place: Josh Streets, Thomasville High School
- 3rd Place: PJ Whigham, Thomas County Central High School
- 4th Place: Caleb Beamon, Americus Sumter High School
- 5th Place: Brock Baird, Colquitt County High School

SOUTH & SOUTHWEST GEORGIA

Workforce Development Alliances' Skills Challenge



24
COMPETING
SCHOOLS

250
STUDENT
COMPETITORS

150
STUDENT
OBSERVERS

MORE THAN \$38,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS



SKILLS CHALLENGE

AGC
Georgia

November 14, 2019

Augusta Exchange Fairground
Augusta, Ga

Host Partners

R.W. Allen Construction, LLC
Gold Mech, Inc.

Overall Winning School

Burke County High School

Winner Construction Cup

Evans High School

Winner of the Welding Cup

Lincoln County High School

Carpentry

1st Place: Dalton Burke, Burke County High School
2nd Place: Alex Pittman, Jefferson County High School
3rd Place: Courtney Powell, Evans High School

Electrical

1st Place: John Bundrick, Lincoln County High School
2nd Place: JT Williams, Evans High School
3rd Place: Bryan Mendez, Evans High School

Masonry

1st Place: Roydarius Hobbs, Thomson High School
2nd Place: Michael Snipes, East Laurens High School
3rd Place: Andrew Bethea, East Laurens High School

Plumbing

1st Place: Jackson Robinson, Jefferson High School
2nd Place: Galvin Harden, West Laurens High School
3rd Place: Noah Clark, Lincoln County High School

Welding Fabrication

1st Place: Storm Bessinger, Colby Howard,
Marc Wallace – Lincoln County High School
2nd Place: Corbin Schoenbeck, Hunter Graham,
Andrew Renner – Evans High School
3rd Place: Seth Babb, Michael Crosby, Jake Dixon
Hephzibah High School

Welding - Advanced

1st Place: Michael Goulet, Hephzibah High School
2nd Place: Chris Holloman, Thomson High School
3rd Place: Caleb Stubblefield, Grovetown High School

Welding - Beginner

1st Place: Connor Walls, Lincoln County High School
2nd Place: Phillip Jean-Paul, Grovetown High School
3rd Place: Alexis Birmingham, Evans High School

EAST GEORGIA

Workforce Development Alliance's Skills Challenge



11

COMPETING
SCHOOLS

87

STUDENT
COMPETITORS

392

STUDENT
OBSERVERS

MORE THAN \$69,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS



SKILLS CHALLENGE

AGC
Georgia

November 19, 2019

Polk County College and Career Academy
Cedartown, Ga

Host Partners

Brasfield & Gorrie
Duffey Southeast, Inc.

Construction Cup Winner

Adairsville High School

Blueprint Reading

1st Place: Katelyn Tucker, Pickens High School
2nd Place: Isaiah Ellenburg, Polk College
and Career Academy – Cedartown
3rd Place: Bailey Whitefield,
Gordon Central High School

Carpentry

1st Place: Fernando Lopez, Carrollton High School
2nd Place: Mike Cummings, Adairsville High School
3rd Place: Ty Veatch, Chattooga High School

Electrical

1st Place: Cody McNeese,
Gordon Central High School
2nd Place: Eduardo Lopez, Adairsville High School
3rd Place: Tristen Price, Chattooga High School

Masonry

1st Place: Kevin Fraire, Gordon Central High School
2nd Place: Dustin King, Chattooga High School
3rd Place: Jacob McAdams, Floyd County College
and Career Academy

Plumbing

1st Place: Oliver Nolasco, Polk County College
and Career Academy – Rockmart
2nd Place: Zak Tillery, Polk County College and
and Career Academy – Cedartown
3rd Place: Hunter Blackmon, Adairsville High School

TeamWorks

1st Place: Adairsville High School
2nd Place: North Paulding High School
3rd Place: Chattooga High School

Welding

1st Place: Sage Owings, Chattooga High School
2nd Place: Jacob Vinson, Floyd County College
and Career Academy
3rd Place: Ethan Perry, Floyd County College
and Career Academy

NORTHWEST GEORGIA

Workforce Development Alliance's Skills Challenge



11

COMPETING
SCHOOLS

75

STUDENT
COMPETITORS

75

STUDENT
OBSERVERS

MORE THAN \$31,000 IN CONTRIBUTIONS

Special Thanks to All Our Skills Challenge Supporters



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Eaton
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Garnto Southern Construction
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CONTINUED

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CONTINUED FROM P. 11

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S&L Integrated Systems
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Shumate Mechanical
Sidney Lee Welding Supply
Sig Cox, Inc.
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Simpson Trucking & Grading, Inc.
Smith Ironworks, Inc.

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Southeast Concrete Masonry Association
Southern Regional Technical College
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SRJ Architects, Inc.
Stafford Builders & Consultants, Inc.
Stiles Heating & Cooling
Sunbelt Ag Expo
Sunbelt Rentals
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Swofford Construction, Inc.
Talisman Rentals
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The Cabinet Place
Thomas Supply Co.
Thomson Roofing and Metal Co.
Titan Electric Georgia
Trinity Fabricators
Tri-Star Contractors, Inc.
Tri-Star Masonry
TTL, Inc.
Tulsa Welding School
Tyson Steel Building Products, Inc.
United Rentals
Universatech Electrical Co., Inc.
USA Millwork, LLC
Valdosta Commercial Doors & Hardware Inc.
Ware Paint & Drywall Inc.
Warner Robins Building Supply
Waste Pro
Whitehead Hardware Company
Williams Sewer & Drain, Inc.
Wiregrass Electric, Inc.
Wiregrass Georgia Technical College, Ben-Hill Irwin
Campus
YANMAR EVO//Center
Yohe Plumbing, Heating & Air/ HVAC