

Winning nomination by McCarthy Building Companies' leadership on behalf of Anthony Gorzelnik for AGC Georgia's 2020 Safety Leadership Award program.

Providing a safe work environment

For the past three years, Anthony was Lead Superintendent on the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport Central Passenger Terminal Complex Landside Modernization. Anthony's role consisted of overseeing and ensuring a safe work environment as our team constructed steel canopies over the North and South Terminal roadways and completed exterior landside construction. Anthony's key areas of focus were the roadways, parking garages, and upper roadways. This meant that Anthony was not only in charge of keeping his workforce safe, but the general public as well. The Atlanta Airport remained completely operational throughout the duration of construction. Safety was at the forefront of everything Anthony had to do throughout the project. He managed all the superintendents and assistant superintendents onsite, which peaked around 12 people. Anthony's commitment to safety resonated across our team and resulted in McCarthy being recognized as the Safest General Contractor at the Airport. McCarthy is still working at Hartsfield-Jackson, but at the time of this nomination Anthony has overseen over 1,500,148 manhours.



Building a safety culture

McCarthy believes that safety is the most important thing our company does every day. The quest to achieve our goal of zero injuries on each and every one of our jobsites means an unwavering focus on safety. Because the Central Passenger Terminal Complex Landside Modernization was the largest project in McCarthy's Atlanta office at the time of construction, Lead Superintendent Anthony Gorzelnik was challenged to be the embodiment of McCarthy's safety culture. He understood that his focus on safety had to be strong enough that it exuded down through everyone on the team underneath him as well as the workforce around him. Anthony has said that safety leadership is not simply knowing, directing, or correcting our workforce to operate safely day in and day out. The key to providing a safe environment and making safety the main focus of our culture is through education and training. In addition to making these meetings mandatory, Anthony was an active participant in the various safety meetings and connected with the workforce to discuss the "why" behind the safety program. Outside of trainings, educational opportunities presented themselves daily on the project while the project was being completed. By being present onsite, Anthony utilized opportunities to train and educate his team and McCarthy's workforce was gaining the safety knowledge that they can take with them to their next project. Anthony knows that teaching through experience scenarios, explaining techniques and making sure they understand the why behind our methods, is the most effective form of learning and those opportunities need to be leveraged when possible. Over the past few years at the Hartsfield-Jackson Landside Modernization project, our commitment to safety has resonated across our team and resulted in us being awarded the recognition of the Safest General Contractor at the Airport.

Uncompromising leadership

The Hartsfield-Jackson Central Passenger Terminal Complex Landside Modernization was incredibly challenging for the team onsite. Due to its size and location, logistics, scheduling, and communication were key to making sure all our construction activities could be carried out safely and successfully. Four years on the same job that consisted of major daytime and nighttime construction can be exhausting. However, our Airport team's safety statistics speak for themselves:

2019 - Manhours: 464,252, Project Incident Rate: .86

2018 – Manhours: 578,491, Project Incident Rate: 1.04

2017 – Manhours: 385,541, Project Incident Rate: 1.52

2016 - Manhours: 71,865, Project Incident Rate: 0.00

As the project grew, so did Anthony's leadership and skillset. He understands he is now in a position to help a younger group of individuals grow into their profession. Anthony has said it's incredibly satisfying to watch the team continuously grow alongside the project and see the success of the team in terms of safety and successful execution of work.

Caring for others

At the core of creating a culture focused around safety is caring for and respecting the workers by putting them in the best situation for success possible as well as educating them on the why so they know what to do and how it will keep them and those around them safe. In the construction industry, it's a continuous cycle of building relationships, working through problems, and delivering complex projects to our clients. After nearly four years of work at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, Anthony has met and established some great relationships with smaller businesses that are genuinely trying to grow their people, win more work, and deliver safe projects to the clients and general contractors they work alongside. For example, there was a time Anthony devoted significant time and energy to planning and training a crew from one of these smaller contractors on safe work practices, proper PPE, and silica protection. This effort has turned into new policies, new tools, and new protection measures for that company and is now a new standard used throughout their entire organization. To see that the time devoted to this effort resulted in a policy and cultural change within a small organization is very rewarding. They understood the value of keeping their people safe, providing the correct tools to complete a task, and embraced the long-term benefits of those practices across all of their projects. Ultimately, they are a better business due at least in small part to working with our team at Hartsfield-Jackson. By focusing on situations like those, Anthony has continued to make an impact in the construction industry that will reach far beyond the jobsite he has worked on.