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Issue
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Statesboro High School students visit Elkins Construction, LLC's Pooler jobsite and participate in a scavenger hunt (see p. 3 for story).

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

Workforce Development Update

SkillsUSA Regional Championships >>>

- ❖ January 22, 2016
 - Region 1: Georgia Northwestern Technical College in Rock Spring
 - Region 4: West Georgia Technical College in LaGrange
 - Region 6: Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin
- ❖ February 4, 2016
 - Region 2: North Georgia Technical College in Clarksville
 - Region 5: Southern Crescent Technical College in Griffin
- ❖ February 5, 2016
 - Region 3: Atlanta Technical College
 - Region 7: Moultrie Technical College
 - Region 8: Golden Isles Career Academy in Brunswick

Students visit the Greene and Associates, Inc. booth at Central Georgia Careers in Construction.



In his own words

Endless opportunities built from construction education

After serving four years in the U.S. Army, I attended a traditional college where I struggled to enjoy and understand the wide range of required courses, even though I have always excelled academically. I simply had no passion for any of the courses the college offered. I found myself rejecting and challenging many of the hypotheses and theories set forth by my instructors. I was simply more passionate about testing their philosophies and physically achieving the very things they stated were not possible.

After 2 years, I learned about a Craftsman Apprenticeship in my hometown of San Diego, CA. It offered an education program comprised of classroom and on-the-job training for a wide range of construction specialties. This program changed the course of my life forever. The combination of classroom education and the opportunity to physically perform tasks was rewarding to me.



I studied this curriculum for a total of three years before graduating a semester early as a Journeyman Carpenter with an emphasis on Structural Concrete Formwork. During my education, I was sponsored and employed by a very reputable concrete company in the southwest market and eventually became

the youngest foremen on their staff. Today, I am part of a team of superintendents building a five-star resort in Bluffton, SC. Every day, I am tasked with decision making, quality control, site and labor

management, budgeting, and most importantly, ensuring craftsmen go home safely at the end of the day to their loved ones. My ability to do so is built on the foundation established in a structured construction education program.

Daniel W. Nunn, Jr.
Assistant Superintendent
Choate Construction Company

Central & East Georgia Workforce Development Alliances Host Events for Local Students

In November, contractors worked with educators to offer students opportunities to learn about careers in construction and try their hand at many of the skills.



A Sheridan Construction superintendent helps students operate an excavator at the Macon event.

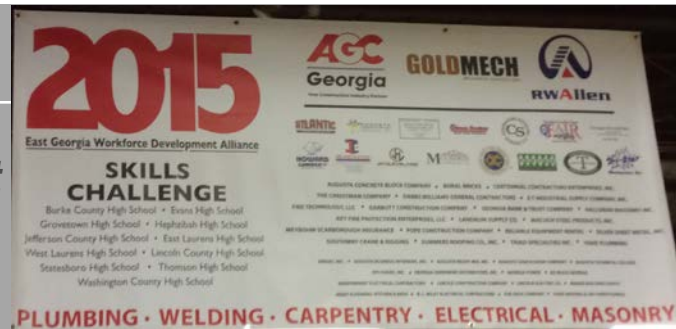
Macon

The Central Workforce Development Alliance invited local contractors and students to Central Georgia Technical College for the 3rd Annual Careers in Construction Day. Students visited contractors at separate booths where they were able to complete hands-on activities and ask questions about opportunities

available in the construction industry. Participating member firms included All-State Electric, ARC Document Solutions, Garbutt Construction Co., Geotechnical & Technical, Consultants, Inc., Greene and Associates, Inc., M & D Masonry, Inc., MetroPower, Piedmont Construction Group, Sheridan Construction, and Speir & Associates Electrical Contractors, Inc.

Augusta

On November 19, East Georgia hosted their 2nd Annual Construction Skills Challenge. Students from 11 area high schools



competed in plumbing, welding, carpentry, electrical, and masonry. More than 70 competitors participated. Industry volunteers judged the events. Students will compete in the SkillsUSA Region 6 Championship on January 22, 2016.



Students compete in the electrical category at the Augusta Fairgrounds.

On Thursday, October 1, Savannah-Chatham County Schools hosted a job fair inviting employers from several industries. The purpose of the "Ready to Work" fair was to showcase job opportunities to local students. Member firms, JE Dunn Construction, Elkins Construction, LLC, Gilbane Building Co., and Mock Plumbing and Mechanical, Inc. represented the construction industry.



Representatives from (l-r) Elkins Construction, LLC and Gilbane Building Co. talk to students at the "Ready to Work" job fair.

The Georgia Department of Education (DOE) and Career, Technical and Agricultural Education (CTAE) held 12 regional Business and Industry Partners in Economic Development meetings across the state. At the Region 12 meeting in Savannah, David Hamilton, Elkins Construction, LLC, participated on the panel. Hamilton shared the story of how AGC Georgia and our regional alliances are working throughout the state with construction programs to offer a renewed partnership. AGC Georgia CEO Mike Dunham and Christy Kovac, Sheridan Construction, participated on panels at meetings in other regions.

Workforce News >>>

Are you worried about how you will face the increase in demand and decline in supply for skilled labor talent in the coming years? In a recent AGC of America survey, 80% of construction firms will increase their payroll in 2015, but 87% report they have trouble finding talent for key positions. AGC suggests the following to help recruit workers for the future: (1) attract target groups, (2) reach out to vets, (3) overhaul recruitment strategies, (4) brand your company, and (5) enhance company culture. Click [here](#) or visit <http://bit.ly/1OstJaR> to view the article in its entirety.

Careers in Construction Week

October was National Careers in Construction Month. We recognized this occasion by collaborating with Senator Mike Dugan for Governor Deal to declare October 26-30 as Careers in Construction Week in Georgia. The proclamation was sent to all construction teachers in the state to hang in their classrooms and discuss with students and parents to promote the value of careers associated with the industry.

To view the proclamation, [click here](#) or visit <http://bit.ly/1MewoUC>.



(l-r) Tina McDaris, CEFGA; Mike Kenig, Holder Construction Co.; Jennifer Horton, Collins and Arnold Construction Co., LLC; Cheri Watson, AGC Georgia; Governor Nathan Deal; Rod Owen, C. C. Owen Tile Co.; Scott Clark, R. W. Allen, LLC; Joe Tuggle, Swofford Construction, Inc.; and Mark Woodall, AGC Georgia, attended the ceremony.

Contractors Welcome Students to Jobsites



Statesboro High School Construction Program tours an Elkins Construction, LLC project.

In early November, Statesboro High School Construction Academy students toured Elkins Construction, LLC's City of Pooler jobsite. Field team members created a scavenger hunt where students were divided into three groups and had to identify the elements on the plans and on the site. This visit was the second for the construction pathway students. Between the visits, members of Elkins team went to the school to give hands on training in metal stud framing and masonry.



Students watch as a Mock Plumbing employee demonstrates a machine in the fabrication shop.

Statesboro High School also visited Mock Plumbing and Mechanical, Inc.'s fabrication shop. At the beginning, the students heard a brief presentation on the design and coordination process before work begins on a site. Students also toured the fabrication shop where shop foremen explained the process as they watched each machine being used.



Students in the Spalding County High School Construction Program visited a research facility under construction by Holder Construction Company for Georgia State University. Spalding student Brooks Davis shared, "Watching the jobsite superintendent navigate the plans on his iPad through the BIM software was very interesting." The students' visit was featured in *The Griffin Daily News* on October 15, 2015 (see above).



Holder Construction Hosts Marietta School at Jobsite

On Friday, November 20, Holder Construction Company hosted Osborne High School at their State Farm KDC Park Center project. During the visit, the students received a brief overview of the company and project with a short question and answer session followed by a tour of the jobsite by the assistant superintendent and lead foremen, who shared his role on the project. After the tour, the electrical general superintendent spoke about his career path as well as those of his sons who recently graduated and pursued careers in the construction industry.



Batson-Cook Company Donates Lumber to Warren Technical

Batson-Cook Company donated over 250 pieces of lumber to Warren Technical School in Atlanta. If your firm has any materials not being used, contact a school in your community to donate. If you would like us to help connect you with a school, call Bill Chambless at 478.978.5865.



Above: Using lumber supplied by Batson-Cook, students at Warren Tech built frames for their construction class. Pictured are (l-r) Pat Ray, Batson-Cook Company; Warren Tech student; Bill Wright, Batson-Cook; Nicole Taylor, construction teacher; Mark Lee, Go Build Georgia; Warren Tech student; and Donald Kirkland, Go Build Georgia.

Community >>>

Q: How do I get involved?

A: Speak at local schools, host jobsite visits, volunteer at SkillsUSA Regional Championship, attend CEFGA CareerExpo, and so much more
Bill Chambless can connect you with local high school programs as well as post-secondary institutions. Contact him at 478.972.5865 or email him at chambless@agcga.org.

Higher Ed News...

AGC Georgia extended membership privileges to students in AGC Student Chapters. Students receive preferred pricing on events including Fall Leadership Conference and Annual Convention. In addition to these privileges, Daniel Alers, Safety Director with Van Winkle Construction, conducted OSHA 10-Hour for Construction training for Georgia Tech Civil Engineering students. Student chapter members and Young Contractor members can also participate in the Young Leadership Program.

In the classroom >>>

Chesley Chambers, Metals Instructor at Floyd County Schools College & Career Academy and co-chair of the Region 1 SkillsUSA Championship, reached out to Dan Baker, Duffey Southeast, Inc., for assistance with the upcoming competition. On October 23, Dan Baker and Kelly O'Neal, Duffey Southeast, Inc., visited with Chambers to plan the plumbing, masonry, and carpentry events. Baker and O'Neal have been working on acquiring materials, judges, and tents to produce a successful event this January.



Dan Baker and Kelly O'Neal, Duffey Southeast, Inc., visit Floyd County Schools College & Career Academy.

In early October, Ryan Price, JE Dunn Construction; John Coleman, Bonitz of Georgia, Inc.; Ronald Tucker, Mock Plumbing and Mechanical, Inc.; and Bill Chambless, AGC Georgia, met with Andre Perry of Windsor Forest High School. The program has over 80 students enrolled despite the numerous challenges. Perry started a SkillsUSA team and pursued NCCER certification. He looks forward to the team serving on his advisory committee, planning jobsite visits, conducting mock interviews, and speaking to students.



During the weekend of October 22 through 24, hundreds of Georgia high school students and teachers convened on Jeckyll Island for the 2015 SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference. Participants attended back to back breakout sessions covering numerous topics as well as specific programs targeted to a students' area of study. AGC Georgia members Fred Hill, H. A. Sack Co., Inc.; Allen Blackmon, Bonitz of Georgia, Inc.; and Reuben Bennett, Ace Electric, Inc., presented a session on employability skills, where they cited their own experiences, gave examples of what not to do, and discussed traits employers seek. Instructors attended separate sessions from the students.

On Thursday, November 5, AGC Georgia hosted and joined representatives from OSHA, American Society of Safety Engineers, Georgia Department of Education, CEFGA, American Industrial Hygiene Association, Georgia Tech Research Institute, Department of Labor, HDS Consulting, West Rock, Georgia Concerned Beauty Professionals, Brasfield & Gorrie, and Gilbane Building Company to sign the OSHA Workforce Alliance Agreement. With an emphasis on youth workers, the OSHA Sustainable Workforce Alliance provides members and other with information, guidance and access to training resources that will aid in protecting the health and safety of youth workers and educators in career/technical education programs throughout Georgia. The renewal agreement provides objectives for the activities of the alliance.

Bibb CTAE Director, Dr. Cassandra Washington, (pictured right) earned National Administrator of the Year honors by the Association for Career and Technical Education.



Fred Hill, H.A. Sack Co., Inc., discusses employability skills to students at SkillsUSA Fall Leadership Conference.

Hands-on experiences >>>



A student participates in a simulator.

Tony Varamo, MetroPower, Inc., talks to students at the Central Georgia Workforce Development Alliance Careers in Construction Day.



Industry professionals renew the OSHA Sustainable Workforce Alliance Partnership. Click [here](http://1.usa.gov/1O3PFbX) or visit <http://1.usa.gov/1O3PFbX> to read more.



Students build at the Department of Transportation bridge exhibit at Careers in Construction Day in Macon (above) and weld at East Georgia Skills Challenge (below.).

