

AGC GEORGIA

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

update

January 2017



Mark Your Calendar for Upcoming SkillsUSA Regional Championships

- Region 1 - January 13, 2017
- Region 2 - February 2, 2017
- Region 3 - January 19, 2017
- Region 4 - February 3, 2017
- Region 5 - February 2, 2017
- Region 6 - January 20, 2017
- Region 7 - February 3, 2017
- Region 8 - February 3, 2017

In the Classroom

Roswell High School students are building work benches for their outdoor work space thanks to lumber provided by **Collins and Arnold Construction Co., Inc.**

The SACK Company's Fred Hill spoke at South Paulding High School in Douglasville on October 3. All Career, Technical, and Agricultural Education (CTAE) teachers in the school brought their classes to listen to Fred's message on the importance of soft skills in the workplace.

Representatives from Georgia Power and **Batson-Cook Company** spoke with students at Hardaway High School in Columbus.

John Case, Safety Director with **Brasfield & Gorrie**, visited students at South Paulding High School on October 20. His message focused on OSHA rules and safety in wood frame construction.

Batson-Cook Company's Tammy Childs worked with students on their masonry projects at Hardaway High School in Columbus. She also spoke about the construction industry and the wide array of career opportunities available. Childs will continue working closely with this program throughout the school year. (Image 4)

On November 3, Barry Darnell of **Batson-Cook Company** taught an OSHA 10-Hour for Construction class to students at Kennesaw Mountain High School.

Joe Tuggle, **Swofford Construction, Inc.**, visited with Spalding High School construction students on December 12 and invited a superintendent, electrician, plumber, and grading foreman from his firm's local jobsite to share their job duties. (Image 1)

McCarthy Building Companies, Inc. is working with Warren Technical School in Atlanta. On December 9, Kevin Kuntz and a project manager visited the school. In February, Kuntz plans to host the students for a jobsite visit.

Three construction programs in Northeast Georgia - Gainesville High School, Lanier Career Academy, and Lumpkin County High School - have been working on Habitat for Humanity homes over the course of the semester. The projects provide students with a hands-on learning experience in the classroom.



In the Field

Griffin High School students visited a local **Swofford Construction, Inc.** jobsite. In September, the group visited a renovation of a 1941 building that will become the new college and career academy for three counties. The students returned to the same jobsite on December 13 to see the progress and learn the next steps toward project completion. (Image 5)

In late October, **Pellicano Construction** announced its partnership with Monroe High School in Albany. Carla Robinson's "Carpentry" and "Introduction to Construction and Safety" classes received a tour of a local project underway at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital.

JE Dunn Construction hosted students from Windsor Forest High School in Savannah on their Spencer Elementary School jobsite on December 16.

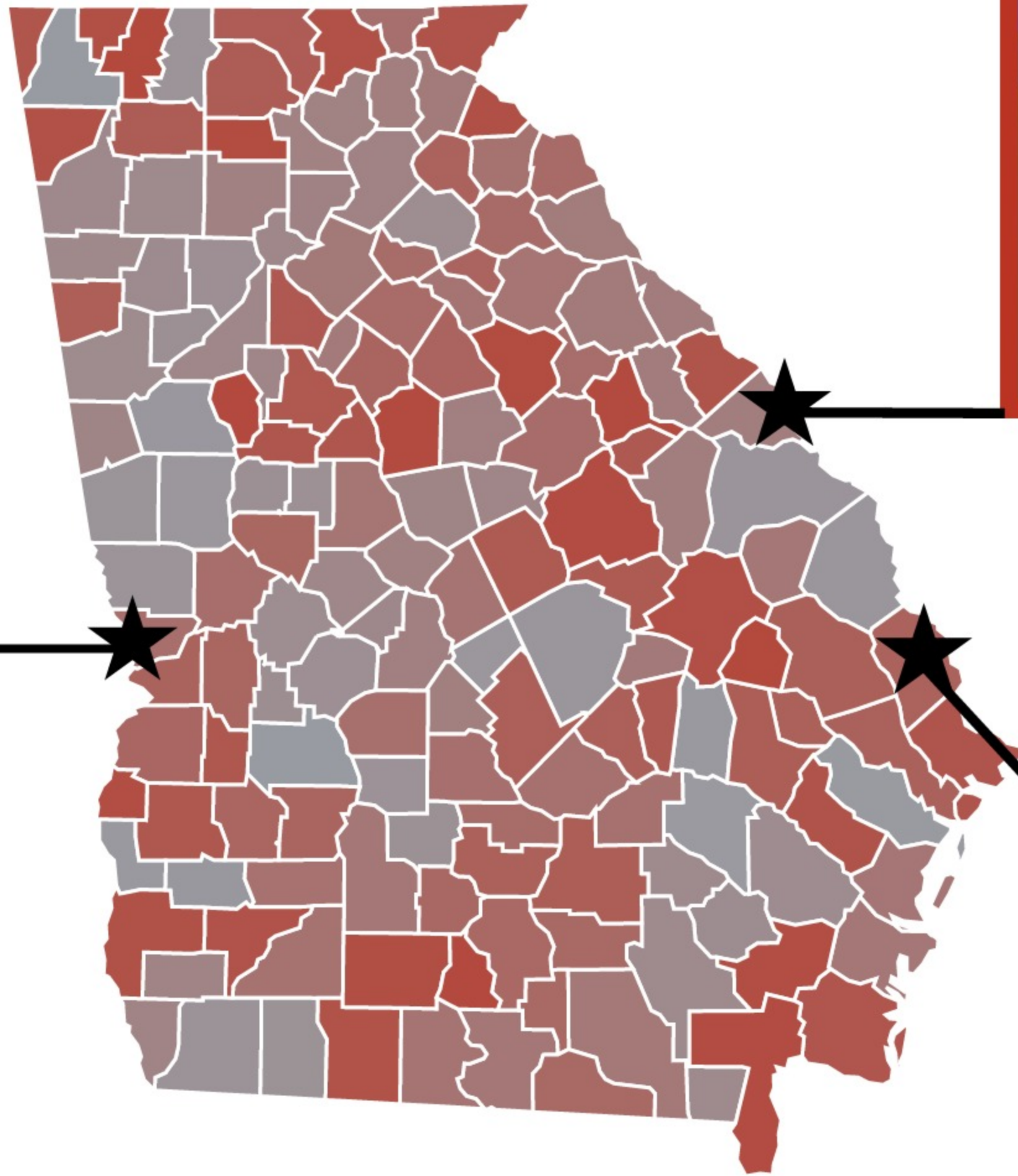
In early December, **The SACK Company** sponsored the first annual Students in Business Day for Dublin-Laurens County. Select students from various programs across the county visited businesses related to their field of study. The goal of the program was to give students insight into the available career paths, skills and education needed, and salary and market expectations. Students from three local high schools began the morning at Dublin High School where Fred Hill spoke on the importance of appearance, attitude, work ethic, timeliness, and ability to work with others before the students divided into groups for their respective industries. SACK hosted 15 students at their Dublin Office and spoke about the evolving world of construction and all the opportunities that lie ahead. (Images 2 & 3)

Need Ideas for Classroom Visits?

Share Build Your Future's *Inside the Hard Hat* videos during your next speaking engagement. These short videos focus on various trades and can help jump start the conversation with students. Find them all at <http://bit.ly/2hWTcBF>.



Columbus CEO met with Randy Hall, Batson-Cook Company.



Augusta CEO interviewed Scott Clark about the November Skills Challenge and Workforce Development Alliances.

Joe Marchese discusses high school construction programs with Georgia Commissioner of Labor, Mark Butler.



Around Town and In the News

Randy Hall, President and CEO of **Batson-Cook Company** and 2016-17 AGC Georgia President, was featured in the *Columbus CEO* for his passion to increase the number of students entering careers in construction. Hall admits he almost missed his calling until he participated in a co-op program at Auburn University. After spending time in the field, he changed his career path from a civil engineer to construction. In June 2016 during his first presentation as President of AGC Georgia, he challenged every member firm to participate in our workforce development initiative and adopt a high school. Currently, Batson-Cook Company has three high schools: Crim Open Campus High School in Atlanta, Kennesaw Mountain High School in Kennesaw, and Hardaway High School in Columbus. (You can find more stories about these schools on page 2.) To read Randy's full story, visit <http://bit.ly/2hF1rEw>.

Augusta CEO interviewed Scott Clark, President and COO of **R. W. Allen, LLC**, about the seven workforce development alliances formed by AGC Georgia across the state. The East Georgia Workforce Development Alliance, hosts their Annual Skills Challenge in November to prepare students for the SkillsUSA Challenges that occur each year in January and February. Other alliances across the state are beginning to transition from a traditional Career Fair to a mock skills challenge similar to the one Clark organizes in Augusta. Watch Clark's full interview at <http://bit.ly/2dmXzT0>.

In Statesboro, **The SACK Company** is making a difference in the lives of students at Statesboro High School. Fred Hill, HR Manager, regularly visits the construction classes to talk about the skills needed when they are ready to enter the construction workforce. In addition to these visits, The SACK Company supports the East Georgia Workforce Development Alliance Skills Challenge where students from Statesboro High School compete in their areas of expertise including carpentry, plumbing, masonry, electrical and welding. Hill volunteers in many capacities and has even driven the school's supply trailer to Augusta for students in Matthew White's classroom to participate. Thanks to the support from local industry members, the construction program has grown to over 140 students at Statesboro High. *The Statesboro Herald* highlights the relationship between the school and The SACK Company. Read more at <http://bit.ly/2gZahcc>.

Joe Marchese, **Marchese Construction Company**, visited with Mark Butler, Georgia Commissioner of Labor, in mid November. Marchese shared with Butler that Effingham County does not have construction programs in any of their schools and offered to be a resource to Butler moving forward.

**Want to get involved with a local program
or need to share your story?**
Contact Bill Chambless at 478-972-5865
or chambless@agcga.org.



Top row: Students compete in masonry at the Northeast Georgia Skills Challenge. Bottom 2 rows: Students compete in plumbing and carpentry at the Southern Crescent/Central Georgia Skills Challenge. The Overall Regional Champion Award was presented to Mary Persons High School's construction students. To view more photos from the event, please visit <http://bit.ly/2iaW5SE>.

The East Georgia Workforce Development Alliance held their 3rd Annual Skills Challenge on November 17. More than 70 students from 11 east Georgia schools participated, and 160 students observed the day's events. New this year, Statesboro High School's Audio/Video Technology & Film Pathway students filmed the competition and Awards Ceremony. Throughout the day, the show was viewed 240 times across the country.

Students competed in seven categories: carpentry, electrical, masonry, plumbing, welding (beginner), welding (advanced), welding (fabrication). Students from Evans High School placed first in three categories (electrical, welding - beginner, and welding - fabrication) while students from Statesboro High School, West Laurens High School, Jefferson County High School, and Grovetown High School took first in the other four.

Sponsors for the event included **Ace Electric, Inc.**, **Augusta Industrial Services, Inc.**, **Cherokee Brick & Tile**, **Dublin Construction Co., Inc.**, **Garbutt Construction Co.**, **Genesis Elevator Company**, **Georgia Drywall, Inc.**, **Gold Mech, Inc.**, **Lentile Construction Company**, **MetroPower, Inc.**, **Mid-South Interior & Exteriors**, **Mock Plumbing and Mechanical, Inc.**, **Pyramid Masonry Contractors, Inc.**, **R. W. Allen, LLC** and **Thomas Concrete of Georgia, Inc.**

Skills Challenges

On November 3, the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Alliance hosted a Skills Challenge. Over 20 students from five local high schools competed with a total of nearly 150 students attending the event. This year was the first year this alliance held a skills challenge. Students competed in four trades: carpentry, masonry, plumbing, and electrical. In addition to the competition, the event also held a "Construction University" where industry and technical college representatives spoke to students about the trades, education requirements, and apprenticeship and career opportunities. Without the help of AGC Georgia members, **Carroll Daniel Construction Co.** and **MetroPower, Inc.**, this event would not have been possible. The alliance hopes to grow this skills challenge next year.

Also in their first year, the Southern Crescent and Central Georgia Workforce Development Alliances came together to host a Skills Challenge. The group moved away from their annual Careers in Construction Fair to host an event to help students prepare for regional SkillsUSA Championships starting in January. Over 55 students competed and over 120 students attended the event held at the Kiwanis Fairgrounds in Griffin. Students competed in five categories including masonry, welding, plumbing, carpentry, and electrical. Mary Persons High School from Forsyth won the overall award with the most points. A huge thank you goes out to event sponsors **All-State Electrical Contractors**, **Bardi Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.**, **C.C. Owen Tile Company, Inc.**, **Ernst Concrete**, **MetroPower, Inc.**, **Garbutt Construction Co.**, **Geotechnical & Environmental Consultants, Inc.**, **Parrish Construction Group**, **Penco Electrical Contractors, Inc.**, **Piedmont Construction Group, LLC**, **Pyramid Masonry Contractors, Inc.**, **R&B Metal Structures, Inc.**, **Rightway Drywall, Inc.**, **Sheridan Construction**, **Swofford Construction, Inc.**, and **Young Contracting/SE, Inc.** Without their support, this event would not have been possible.



(clockwise from top left) Students participate in carpentry, welding, electrical, and masonry at the East Georgia Skills Challenge. To see more photos from the event, please visit <http://bit.ly/2hahAkx>.