

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Skills Challenge Back & Bigger in 2021



AGCGeorgia and our amazing regional contractor partners are excited to host the 2021 Skills Challenge series. With seven Challenges –Marietta and Statesboro's events are new this year—we are looking to surpass participation from the last series we offered in 2019 that included 700+ students representing 81 high schools.

Several core competitions offered this year include blueprint reading, cabinet making, carpentry, electrical, HVAC, plumbing, masonry, roofing, TeamWorks, and welding. Attendees beyond the students include state legislators, school superintendents, high school counselors, mayors, school board members, and leaders from the DOE and TCSG.

This statewide workforce development program is made possible through the support of many industry professionals. Along with our regional contractor champions from each event who volunteer hundreds of hours of their time and expertise, we also benefit from the hundreds of thousands of dollars in sponsorships from industry firms across the state who value efforts to grow the construction industry's talent pipeline for generations to come.

Some of the leaders in this effort include **Ace Electric, Brasfield & Gorrie, Carroll Daniel Construction, Choate Construction, Duffey Southeast,**

Gold Mech, JCI Contractors, RW Allen Construction, Sheridan Construction, Tuggle Construction, and West Construction.

We invite all industry firms to get engaged by offering a hands-on exhibitor experience at a Challenge for student observers, providing sponsorship dollars through our 501c3 foundation, or having a seasoned professional from your company serve as a judge in a competition near you. We are also in need of in-kind material donations for competitions.

2021 SKILLS CHALLENGES

- October 27 - Gainesville
- October 28 - Macon
- November 1 - Cedartown
- November 2 - Statesboro
- November 9 - Moultrie
- November 16 - Marietta
- November 18 - Augusta

For more info, please visit:
agcga.org/skills

IN THIS ISSUE

- Workforce Summer Camp
- Carroll Daniel's Apprenticeship Signing Day
- The "Magic" of Construction
- Jim Steel Honored
- North Cobb HS Student Success Stories

Toombs County Teens Attend Workforce Summer Camp

Toombs County High School students participated in a Teens Workforce Summer Camp where AGC Georgia member McLendon Enterprises hosted the students for a tour. The program informs students of career opportunities in the community, as well as potentially placing students in an employment position.

“Although McLendon Enterprises is heavily

involved with work extending out into a 120-air mile range from Vidalia, we still build and hire right here in our very own county,” said McLendon Enterprises, Inc. MEI, Safety Director Brent W. Holcombe. “Since we are part of the U.S. 1 widening project, it was fun to show students from our own community what our side of construction looks like and what it entails.”

The students asked lots of good questions and had

the unique opportunity to visit the hidden underground infrastructure work. This brought a whole new light on what it takes to build roads, bridges, and vertical construction.

Hopefully, this is just the beginning of these students’ journey into opportunities in the construction industry.



Apprentice Signing Day

CARROLL DANIEL Apprenticeship Program for Field Engineers “signed” six new apprentices in its program available to high school students, trade school students, and existing or prospective employees desiring to become construction superintendents.

“The Carroll Daniel team is excited to have these guys join our team and can’t wait to see all that they can accomplish during this two-year program,” said Landon Boyd, the firm’s General Superintendent.

Each apprentice receives a combination of technical college instruction at Lanier Tech, training at Carroll Daniel’s in-house Academy, and on-the-job training at the firm’s project sites.



Girls Discover MAGIC in Construction

Local firms are making a difference by supporting Mentoring a Girl in Construction (MAGIC), Inc. Both Sheridan Construction Company and AGC Georgia's Foundation recently contributed checks to MAGIC in support of their summer camps.

MAGIC is a free, one-week day camp that introduces high school girls to careers in construction. The camp offers girls a nurturing and supportive



environment to explore and develop basic skills in carpentry, electrical, welding, and other industry-related trade skills.

The Central Georgia MAGIC camp took place June 7-11 at the W.S. Hutchings College and Career Academy in Macon.

MetroPower has been a long-time supporter of MAGIC. Several of its Women's Employee Resource Group members participated in the event. The students learned basic circuitry, apprenticeship programs, and career various opportunities.



Jim Steel Wins Workforce Award

Harris County High School Construction Teacher Jim Steel was recently named a 2021 Craft Pro Champion by Construction Ready, formally known as CEFGA. Jim rebuilt the school's construction program after a previous instructor's departure resulted in shutting down the curriculum.

Created in partnership with Atlanta CareerRise, the Craft Pro Champion

Awards recognize individuals making a difference in the construction-related workforce development arena.

When Steel arrived from Crisp County High School in 2018, he was met with only remnants of the program that had closed five years prior. According to Steel, the school system invested \$8,000-\$10,000. He also applied for grants that generated an additional \$73,000 to equip the program, which included donated equipment and material from local construction businesses.

Now, the program totals 75 students per semester in three skill levels. The program has earned certification from the National Center for Construction Education and Research. Students who complete the program and pass the test are certified to earn better jobs and higher wages ahead of applicants without such credentials.

Congratulations to Jim Steel! AGC Georgia values our partnership with him and appreciates his hard work as a frontline ambassador for our state's construction industry.



North Cobb HS Student Success Stories

THE 2020 NORTH COBB High School construction graduates are finding early success in the industry.

“It’s exciting to see these young minds excel in the construction industry,” said North Cobb High School Construction Technology Program Director Brent Branning. “Our future is in good hands with this recent group of graduates.”

GRADUATE UPDATES INCLUDE:

- Eric Stevens and Koby Trout – 2nd year Mechanical Trades Institute apprentices at Batchelor & Kimball, Inc.
- Xavier Smith – 2nd year Independent Electrical Contractors apprentice at

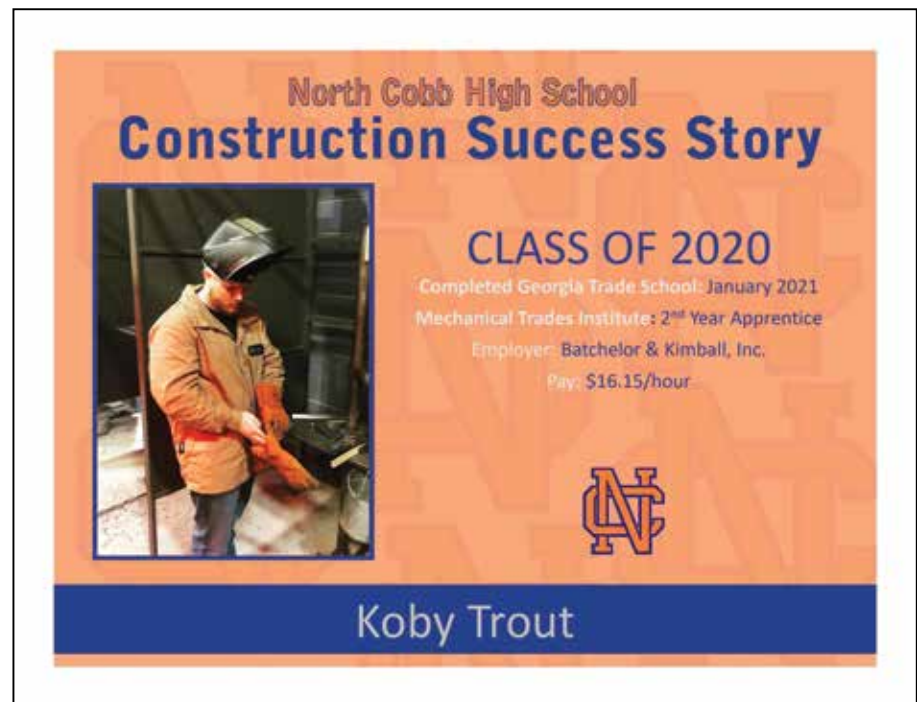
“AGC Georgia is proud of these young professionals and excited to share the great work of North Cobb High School’s construction program.”

Excel Electrical Technologies, Inc.

- Caleb Lilly – 2nd year Independent Electrical Contractors apprentice
- Shawn Stargell – career in bridges and structures market

AGC Georgia is proud of these young professionals and excited to share

the great work of North Cobb High School’s construction program. It’s also important for member firms to offer young people great opportunities to find their niche within the construction industry.



Student Discovers Success in Youth Build

Sean Douglas Lattimore received a second chance through construction after struggling throughout school. He now credits his passion for construction to Walter Preston’s construction class at Griffin High School. The solution for Lattimore was participating in Youth Build, a pre-apprentice program built for students who want to be a part of the construction industry.

Upon graduation, he earned his GED and achieved numerous awards along including a \$5,000 grant towards a vehicle. In addition, Lattimore received a full-time job with benefits with the trade union of his choice. He selected the carpentry union, where he will be a paid apprentice for five years until he receives his journeymen’s certification.

AGC Georgia loves to hear about success stories within our network of construction teachers. We recognize the importance teachers play in our overall workforce development initiatives. We hope all contractors will build relationships with their local and regional construction program instructors and support them as they work to develop the industry’s future workforce.