

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE



OCTOBER 2022 » www.agcga.org/wfd



CAMP T & I: INSTRUCTING THE INSTRUCTORS FOR CONSTRUCTION TRADES

Camp T & I (Trade and Industry) is the Georgia Department of Education's annual summer training program for construction and metals/welding high school teachers. In conjunction with Construction Ready, AGC Georgia helps to provide hands on training to our amazing instructors hosted at Golden Isles College & Career

Academy. It also provides an opportunity for industry leaders to "train the trainer" on what students need to learn to be employable in today's industry.

AGC Georgia has been sponsoring this important initiative since 2014 and we are proud to promote our annual "adopt your instructor

Continued on the next page

IN THIS ISSUE

New Hires around
the Industry

Page 2

SPOTLIGHT ON
Instructor Carlos Jones

Page 3

AGC Georgia's upcoming
Skills Challenges

Page 5

CAMP cont'd from page 1

campaign,” which asks contractors to help “sponsor” teachers in their region to attend the event. The campaign helps with meals, project materials and per diem needs for some instructors who don't have the budget to attend. This year's campaign raised \$5,400.

With more than 180 construction programs throughout the state, Camp T & I is a great way for AGC Georgia and the industry to build relationships with not only construction program instructors, but also get our name in front of other CTAE-related staff members at schools, including counselors, principals, and superintendents. We want these academic leaders to know they have the weight of the industry supporting their programs as they work to develop students who are prepared to enter the workforce.

This summer's session was held June 11-13. Over 70 instructors were in attendance. AGC Georgia



Member Services Specialist Bill Chambless was particularly proud of the camp, its mission and the campaign. “Instructors constantly share that this is the best training opportunity all year,” he said. “The location of Brunswick, the camaraderie and quality of trainers makes this the place to be each summer.”

He went on to share that it's important to partner with trade

groups to bring the best training. New for this past summer's event, AGC Georgia asked the Southeastern Masonry & Concrete Association (SCMA) to take lead on the masonry training. They set up stations to illustrate bricklaying techniques with all instructors taking turns laying bricks while receiving pointers. Instructors shared their rave reviews for this being included in the 2022 camp. ❌

If you would like to learn more about **Camp T & I**, please connect with Bill Chambless at chambless@agcga.org.

NEW HIRES AROUND THE INDUSTRY

Together with our members, AGC Georgia takes pride in empowering the future workforce with the skills and knowledge to succeed within the construction industry. Through our Skills Challenge events, high school students are able to observe and compete in a variety of trade competitions. Opportunities for students to learn about careers are available at all of the events across the state.

By providing the means to students to learn these skills, they are prepared to enter the workforce. We are proud to name outstanding

competitors who were able to earn jobs after competing in the events.

This issue, we are highlighting three hires: Kaleb Pierce of Savannah-based JTVS Builders, Devin Bush of Allstate Electrical Contractors Atlanta office and Lane Evans of Dublin-based Moye Electric Company.

Throughout high school, Pierce competed and attended multiple Skills Challenges in Macon and Statesboro before competing at the SkillsUSA state competition in Atlanta. Similar to many students,

he was faced with the harsh reality of the real-world following graduation and always knew traditional college courses and a large campus wasn't for him. JTVS Principal Jimmy Smith knew about Kaleb's success in the Skills Challenges representing Camden County High school and was impressed with his problem-solving skills during his interview. After interviewing with JTVS Builders and experiencing the culture and work environment, Pierce knew that it was the best long-term opportunity and accepted the position as Apprentice/Assistant

Continued on the next page

**Kaleb Pierce****NEW HIRES** *cont'd from page 2*

Foreman while attending online college courses.

"Kaleb possesses great problem-solving skills for a young man his age and that is why I hired him," Smith said. "He has a very bright future."

All-State Electrical Contractors hired Devin as a summer intern. He is a 2022 Roswell High School graduate and is currently pursuing a BS in Electrical Engineering at Kennesaw

**Lane Evans**

State University. He participated in the construction program in high school and also had the opportunity to compete in several AGC Georgia Skills Challenges.

Moye Electric Company Office Manager Sheila Daniel recognized Evans' name from the Statesboro

**Devin Bush**

competition in the AGC Georgia Skills Challenge booklet just days before he applied for a job with the firm.

"He's been a stellar employee for us ever since we hired him," Daniel said. ✖

Members are encouraged to submit your firm's recent hires who competed in any **AGC Georgia Skills Challenges** or were connected to a contractor for work opportunities through their high school construction program. Please connect with Alyson at abercrombie@agcga.org.

SPOTLIGHT ON INSTRUCTOR CARLOS JONES

Great example of a front-line industry ambassador

If you want to know how to run a highly successful, nationally recognized construction program, you don't need to look far.

Carlos Jones Jr., a construction instructor and SkillsUSA advisor at Camden County High School, has established himself and his program as one of the best — Jones and his program have won the Alliance Cup at every Skills Challenge he has attended with most students placing first, second or third place in the events. Over the course of this career, he has had more than 150 first, second, and third place winners in the state with

about 38 having placed in the top 10 at the national level.

AGC Georgia member development specialist Bill Chambless credits Jones as having one of the best SkillsUSA programs in the state, as well as being the first program in the country to receive accreditation.

"There aren't many people that get as much support from their community as Carlos," Chambless said. "He's mastered the ability to incorporate industry into the classroom to ensure students are seeing the real world."

In fact, Jones has the largest Career and Technical program in Georgia. Just last year, his program had the highest dual enrollment of any school in the state with about 80 students earning dual enrollment credits to become certified construction workers. Students in Jones' "Intro To Construction" program spend four weeks in carpentry, four in plumbing, four in masonry and four in electrical.

"I use the NCCER curriculum, but it's updated with things that the industry has told us to add," Jones said. "I only teach what industry is asking for our kids to learn."

Continued on the next page

SPOTLIGHT cont'd from page 3

Jones credits the support he receives from his community to the work he and his students do throughout the county such as building a veterans memorial monument at the courthouse in Woodbine, a community market shelter in downtown Kingsland and multiple ramps/decks for wounded veterans.

"We had a veteran come home from Afghanistan that was a paraplegic and needed a \$40,000 remodel project done to expand his hallway to get his bed in his bedroom," Jones recalls. "My dad and I started talking to people, and after a couple of contractors approved the plan, poured the footer and got the foundation ready, we had 75 people show up to help the first day."

Over the next five months, Jones took students to work on the house.

"When your community gives to you, it's not hard to give back to it," Jones said. "There are four Veteran Memorials in our county, and there's not one that my students haven't worked on."

Jones said he values the AGC Georgia Skills Challenges as a way students can showcase their abilities in real world situations because "the pressure is on" and the students are amazed that the industry wants them to come work for them.

"Aside from the teachers teaching skills, most educators don't know what it's like to work on a timeline and sweat for eight hours," Jones said. "Some have, but not the majority. It's hard to build something from the ground up. It's the real McCoy."

Jones knows both the real world and the AGC organization well. He ran a construction business while in high school and Elizabeth Dole, the former U.S. Secretary of Labor, signed off on his carpenter apprenticeship accreditation in 1987.

Construction education is in Jones' blood. The program was started in 1977 by his father, Carlos Jones Sr., who still helps the program and works with his son by attending and assisting with Skills Challenges. Upon the elder's retirement, Jones Jr., who was then a welding instructor, took the reins from his father.

AGC Georgia member firm MetroPower recruited three students (Kendal Eels, Glennis Lloyd, Christopher West) to its apprenticeship program in Branch 7. The students attended the Camden County High School Engineering, Architectural & Industrial Academy with Jones.

Jones has a simple motto for his students that he credits with preparing them for both the construction industry and life.

"If it ain't right, it's wrong," he said. "I feel the kids benefit from learning a little bit of it all because most of them don't know what they want to do until they get out of high school, but I'm proud of them all. They're my kids. The last count of my former students included 29 engineers, graduates from the Naval Academy, one for the Air Force Academy, five doctors, four lawyers, two up-and-coming politicians, and more supervisors and leads in just about every career path than I can count."



Carlos Jones

A construction company supporter in his area partners with Jones to recognize a student of the month from his class. In addition to the support from firms and other organizations, Jones credits the economy with providing students' opportunities to find work.

"People are willing to put our students to work," he said. "They come with certifications. If a student comes through our full program, he or she is going to step out as a first-year apprentice."

So, what's the secret to Jones' success?

"I push students to be the best," he said. "When you do that, they're automatically going to realize they can be successful. All you have to do is encourage them and push them until they become the best by practicing, failing but learning from that mistake and making money. The more you do it, the better you're going to be until, eventually, you rise through the ranks and if you want to be a CEO one day ... the opportunity will come to you with hard work." ❌

AGC GEORGIA SKILLS CHALLENGES

The AGC Georgia Skills Challenge series has been an incredible asset for our member organizations with more than 1,900 student competitors and student observers from 80 schools attending last year's competitions. With

the increase in participation and interest from member organizations, AGC Georgia is proud share information about the series so even more firms can make their company shine in front of young people.

To learn more about how to donate materials, serve as a competition judge, contribute as a sponsor or other ways to volunteer, please visit a region's website shown below for details, contact regional points of contact or call AGC Georgia at 678-298-4100. ✕

LOCATION	DATE & TIME	HOST CONTRACTORS	STUDENT COMPETITIONS
METRO ATLANTA www.agcga.org/MetroATLSkills Cobb County Civic Center in Marietta Connect with Nicole at nlong@brasfieldgorrie.com for more information and sponsorship details.	Oct. 25, 2022 at 8:30 am	Brasfield & Gorrie	Blueprint Reading; Carpentry; Electrical; Fine Furniture/Woodworking; HVACR; Masonry; Plumbing; and Welding
NORTHEAST GEORGIA www.agcga.org/NESkills Chicopee Woods Agricultural Center in Gainesville Connect with Kara at ktate@carrolldaniel.com for more information and sponsorship details.	Oct. 26, 2022 at 8:30 am	Carroll Daniel Construction Company	Blueprint Reading; Carpentry; Electrical; Fine Furniture/Woodworking; HVACR; Masonry; Plumbing; and Welding
CENTRAL GEORGIA www.agcga.org/CGSkills State Farmers Market in Macon Connect with Steve at sbell@sheridanconstruction.com for more information and sponsorship details.	Oct. 27, 2022 at 8:30 am	Sheridan Construction	Blueprint Reading; Carpentry; Electrical; Masonry; Plumbing; Roofing; and Welding
SOUTHEAST GEORGIA www.agcga.org/SESkills Bulloch County Agricultural Complex in Statesboro Connect with Jada at jada.taylor@aceelectric.net for more information and sponsorship details.	Nov. 2, 2022 at 8:30 am	Ace Electric, Inc. Choate Construction Company West Construction Co.	Blueprint Reading; Carpentry; Electrical; Masonry; Plumbing; Roofing; Tile Setting; and Welding
SOUTH+SOUTHWEST GEORGIA www.agcga.org/SSWSkills Sunbelt AG Expo in Moultrie Connect with Ashby at aautry@jcicontractors.com for more information and sponsorship details.	Nov. 8, 2022 at 8:30 am	JCI Contractors	Blueprint Reading; Carpentry; Electrical; Masonry; Plumbing; Team Build; and Welding
NORTHWEST GEORGIA www.agcga.org/NWSkills Coosa Valley Fairgrounds in Rome Connect with Marshall at mjones@duffeyse.com for more information and sponsorship details.	Nov. 10, 2022 at 8:30 am	Duffey Southeast, Inc.	Blueprint Reading; Carpentry; Electrical; Masonry; Plumbing; Team Build; and Welding
EAST GEORGIA www.agcga.org/EGSkills Georgia Carolina State Fair in Augusta Connect with Laura at lbell@rwallen.com for more information and sponsorship details.	Nov. 17, 2022 at 8:30 am	R. W. Allen Construction GoldMech	Carpentry; Electrical; Masonry; Plumbing; Sheet Metal and Welding