AGC Education Foundation

Developing and Promoting Construction Careers through Quality Education and Training • Established 1980

2025 ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

A letter from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends,

This year marks a special milestone – our 45th anniversary. We have so much to celebrate, and these achievements are possible because of you.

In 1980, our founders had a bold vision to provide continuing education for the industry, offer scholarships, and introduce our youth to construction careers. They worked hard to create milestones and propel us forward. We believe that they would be extremely proud of the collective growth and achievements that we celebrate in 2025.

We invite you to read about our current programs and their impact. Thank you for your continued generosity and partnership over the years. It is meaningful and has allowed us to turn dreams into reality.

As we look forward to the next forty-five years, we will continue to honor our past, work strategically for today, with a bold vision for our future.

With gratitude,

Diane Kocer
Executive Director

What's Inside

- Scholarship Awards and Alumni
- A New Class for Continuing Education
- CTE Educator of the Year Award
- Core Plus Construction (CPC) Update
- CPC at Seattle Skills Center

Celebrating 45 Years

In 1980, a group of visionaries, AGC of Washington general contractors, understood the value of education and the benefit of giving back to their community. Believing that continual education and training are vital elements of the construction industry, the AGC Education Committee also saw an opportunity to encourage others to give back.

With the intent of developing construction education programs and providing a vehicle for non-taxable donations, the Seattle AGC Education and Community Service Foundation was formed. The name was later changed to the AGC Education Foundation as classes and workshops expanded to the district offices of Bellingham, Olympia, Tacoma and Yakima. The original foundation trustees included Don Bocek, Louis Rowley, Tullus Gordon, Terry Deeny, Dann Sheffield and Larry Johnson.

Over time, through the generosity of the AGC of Washington, its members, donors, and community partners, this vision has become a reality. The Foundation now serves thousands of construction professionals, students, and teachers through a wide variety of education and outreach programs.

"I believe in investing in an organization that is of great benefit to our industry – the AGC Education Foundation. I see the value of my donation growing with the hope that it is matched by a new generation of construction-industry leaders."

-Larry Johnson, Prime Construction Company,
AGC Education Foundation Founder

SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Historical Impact:

450 +
Scholarship Recipients

$1,500,000 +
Total funds awarded

The Scholarship Program was one of the first initiatives established at the Foundation and held a special place in the hearts of the AGC of Washington members who founded the AGC Education Foundation. They wanted to support the next generation of construction leaders.

Thanks to the generosity and support from donors, this program has provided scholarships and career opportunities to hundreds of students, helping shape our industry's leadership.

Congratulations to our 2025-2026 Scholarship Awardees!

Central Washington University
Corban Avey, Hunter Rhodes-Williams, Jenna Rudig, Logan Martin, Luis Mogollan, Maya Hankins, Ryan Palmer, Victor Leyva

University of Washington
Aaron Levin, Lucas Benson, Luis Garcia-Luna, Nathalie Villanueva, Samuel Grassa, Skye Suk

Washington State University
Adrian Klinkenberg, Anna Olson, Billy Scammell, Bradyn Melton, Charlotte Ogorsolka, Jordyn Ward, Jose Lopez, Olivia LeCompte, Riley Pettitt

Pictured below in order.

Thank you to the Scholarship Review Committee

These volunteers dedicated their time, passion, and expertise to reviewing applications, conducting over 20 interviews, providing candid feedback, and encouraging each applicant to advance their careers in the industry.

Rick Workman*, W.G. Clark Construction; Suzanne Lessard, Tamarack Consulting; Jamie Miller*, Sellen Construction; Brad Hayes*, Sellen Construction, retired; Julianna Plant, Lease Crutcher Lewis; Michael Rechnitz, Schuchart; Tyler Tonkin, GLY; Annika Gaffney, GLY; Andrew Bry, Abbott Construction.

*Former scholarship recipient

Where are our scholarship alumni now?

We caught up with some of our past scholarship recipients to learn where they are now, and what advice they would give to the next generation of construction management graduates.

MALEAHA HECK

Central Washington University, Degree: Construction Management '23

"My career has been short but worthwhile. I have held roles as a project engineer intern, a project engineer, and now I am a Construction Technician II for Perteet Engineering, Inc. I love learning new things and am so happy to be with Perteet where my coworkers are teaching me design basics. I hope to test for my EIT in the future. Thank you to the AGC Education Foundation for supporting my education and career after college.

Advice: Everyone on the job site has something to teach or advice to give. And, always take notes because you will need that information again."

SALVADOR ARELLANES

Central Washington University, Degree: Construction Management '16

“I’ve been with Sellen Construction since graduating from CWU in 2016. I started as a Project Engineer and currently work as a Senior Technical Engineer. I’ve worked on everything from small office tenant improvements to overseeing major structural components on high-rise buildings. My role has given me experience managing all aspects of construction, including RFIs, submittals, contracts, and change orders.

Advice: This industry offers endless opportunities to grow, and the more you put yourself in situations where you can learn, the faster your career will progress. Also, don’t hesitate to ask questions or reach out for help, it's always better to ask early than to wait until it’s too late.”

ARMANDO ESPINOSA

Washington State University, Degree: Construction Management and Architecture '15

"I started my construction career as an intern at Exxel Pacific and currently serve as a Project Manager.

Advice: Throughout my career, I’ve learned the importance of dedicating the time and effort required to achieve meaningful results. I’ve also found great value in seeking guidance from those with prior experience and never hesitating to ask questions. Staying engaged with your local AGC chapter, building strong relationships within the construction industry, and enjoying the work you do are all key to long-term growth and success."

RICK WORKMAN

University of Washington, CM (Building Construction at the time) and Design and Planning '94

"I've been in the industry in Seattle my entire career, currently a Project Executive with W.G. Clark, previously with Lease Crutcher Lewis and Turner. I have been involved with the AGC Education Foundation for many years and currently serve as Past President.

Advice: Always look for opportunities to learn, you never know where they might lead. This industry is full of smart, passionate people who truly enjoy sharing what they know. Don't hesitate to ask questions, speak up when something isn't clear, or seek support from friends, coworkers, and mentors, whether you're facing a technical challenge or navigating your career. You're surrounded by people who want to see you grow- take advantage of it!"

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Dan Morris

Director of Education and Training

"It's been an exciting year. Our leadership classes are always in demand, and this year we launched a new one.

My favorite part of this work is to identify the current construction education needs and create a course to meet the objectives. This fall, we launched *New Project Engineer: Essential Skills for Advancement*. The class is designed to equip new/early-career Project Engineers with the practical knowledge and interpersonal skills essential for success. The first class sold out.

Special thanks to John Schaufelberger for the initial design and for creating course content and case studies. John helps teach this course with Julianna Plant, Lease Crutcher Lewis, and Brad Neudorfer, Howard S. Wright.

We plan to offer this course three times annually."

2025 by the numbers

2,926
Total attendees

476
Organizations represented

1,624
Attendees from 144 AGC member organizations

398
Total number of classes

73
Total number custom of classes

Data from 11/1/24 - 11/1/25

Photos from the first *New Project Engineer: Essential Skills for Advancement*. First photo: Instructors Julianna Plant (left), John Schaufelberger, and Brad Neudorfer.

From Scholarship to Leadership
Q&A with Brad Neudorfer

Brad's path with the Foundation spans from scholarship recipient to instructor. In this Q&A, he shares how these experiences shaped his career and why staying connected to our mission matters.

Looking back to when you first received a scholarship, what did that support mean to you personally and professionally?

Receiving a scholarship was hugely meaningful to me because it represented a second chance. I didn't succeed in college the first time I attended. I was unsure of what I wanted to do, and I was dealing with some personal challenges at home. After earning poor grades, I left WSU and worked in the field for a few years. That experience gave me clarity and a clear vision for my future. When I returned to school, the scholarship helped me fully commit to that goal. It allowed me to focus on my coursework and leadership roles, like serving as President of the Associated Students of Construction Management and competing on the ASC commercial team, instead of worrying about finances. One of the most impactful moments was connecting with Matt Lessard, who funded one of the scholarships I received. When I thanked him, his response was simple: "No thanks necessary, just give back when you're able." That advice stuck with me and inspired me to get involved with the AGC right out of college.

You have been involved in so many ways, student, donor, continuing education participant, and now instructor. What motivates you to stay involved?

For me, it's about paying it forward for the opportunities that I was given. The Foundation played a huge role in shaping my career, and I want to help ensure others have this same chance to succeed. I've seen first-hand how scholarships, education, and networking can change someone's trajectory. Giving back is my way of strengthening the industry and supporting the next generation of builders.

You took a lead role in teaching a new class for early career Project Engineers. How was the experience?

Teaching at the Foundation, specifically this class, has been a great experience. What surprised me most was the sharing of real-world challenges and discussing scenarios and options for improvements. This helped students connect theory to practice. Seeing what made concepts click for them has also changed the way I think about my own work. It reminded me that explaining the "why" behind our processes is just as important as teaching the steps. This perspective will influence how I communicate with my teams going forward.

What would you say to your peers about why it is important to get involved and invest in the industry's future?

Our industry thrives when everyone contributes. Whether it's mentoring, teaching, or supporting scholarships, these efforts help create a stronger and more skilled workforce. Getting involved is not just about giving back; it's about building relationships, sharing knowledge, and making sure the next generation has strong communication skills and the resources they need to succeed. If we want a vibrant and sustainable construction industry, we all have a role to play.

Our Annual Fund Donors

With gratitude, we recognize the donors who participated in this year's Annual Fund. We gratefully acknowledge their partnerships to advance our programs.

Champions ($10,000 plus)
Byron W. & Alice L. Lockwood Foundation
Gray Lumber Company
Sellen Community Foundation
Schuchart Corporation

Visionaries ($5,000 to $9,999)
Abbott Construction, Inc.
GLY Construction
Gray Construction
Lease Crutcher Lewis

Patrons ($2,500 - $4,999)
Absher Construction
Andgar Corporation
Ashbaugh Beal
ASI Wealth Management/OneDigital
Bayley Construction
CalPortland
Elaine Ervin
Ferguson Construction, Inc.
Huber Brothers LLC
Lakeside Industries
Lincoln Construction
Moss Adams X Baker Tilly
Parker, Smith & Feek, Inc.
RAFN Company
Tucci & Sons, Inc.

Founders ($1,000 - $2,499)
Annika Gaffney
Bob and Melisse Barrett
Foushee & Associates, Inc.
Frederick Stearns Foundation
Kiewit Infrastructure Group
Kurt and Lisa Boyd
Mark Landau and Lori Dey
Middle of Six
Priscilla Dickert
Propel Insurance
Wendy and Stephan C. Sefcik
W.G. Clark Construction Company

Partners ($499 to $999)
Rick Workman

Friends (Up to $499)
Brad & Dina Hayes
Bradley Neudorfer
Frank Young
James Miller
Jeffrey Christianson
Jessica Lind
Nick Weymouth
Sean Woerman
Scott Akre

We invite you to support us at any level financially. Your gift will ensure that our critical industry work is funded.

Contact Hillary Schneider, Director of Advancement for more information: hschneider@agcwa.com

Great Teachers Inspire Students

Scholarship recipient, Livy Le Compte, joined our June Board of Trustees' meeting to share her introduction to construction and her hopes for a future career.

During our initial meeting with Livy, we discovered that our first interaction actually happened well before she submitted her scholarship application. She attended Pierce County Skills Center during her high school years, excelled in the newly created Core Plus Construction classroom, and competed and placed in the state SkillsUSA Competition.

Livy's former Core Plus Construction teachers, Dave Tout (right) and Patrick Bell (left), also attended and described the program's impact in their classroom. This reunion was a surprise for Dave and Pat!

It was an honor to present Dave Tout with our **2025 CTE Educator of the Year Award***. This award is in memory of a beloved construction industry leader, Gene Colin.

Dave leads a standout apprenticeship preparation program at Pierce County Skills Center, serving multiple school districts and maintaining a student waitlist. Dave is in his fourteenth year at the Skills Centers, is highly respected by his peers, and is a leader within the Core Plus Construction community, even leading a teacher training session at this year's Spring Core Plus Construction conference.

Patrick Bell, who has served alongside Dave as an Assistant Instructor for six years, retired in June. We extend our sincere thanks to both Dave and Pat for their outstanding service and contributions to this successful program.

Established by Ferguson Construction in 2018, the Gene Colin Outstanding Educator Memorial Endowment provides classroom resources to an outstanding educator who successfully ignites students to explore careers in the construction industry.

CORE PLUS CONSTRUCTION

Program Updates

5
Year anniversary

33
Counties access the program

100+
School districts

12
Skills Centers

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Investing in the Future: John McCoy's First Year at Seattle Skills Center

John McCoy completed an extraordinary first year teaching Core Plus Construction (CPC) at the Seattle Skills Center, and the results speak for themselves. With a unique professional background spanning military service, congressional casework, and residential construction, John brings real-world experience and deep passion for construction education.

Through his varied experiences, John recognized the need for skilled workers and chose to utilize the Core Plus Construction program in his classroom. He recognized the need to equip his students with both technical and soft skills required to thrive in the industry.

As a first-year teacher, John found the frameworks and curriculum immensely beneficial. He also used supplemental content from TEACH Construction, attended monthly CPC professional development sessions, and attended the state educator conferences, strengthening his instructional practice and students' experiences.
He is an educator who models innovation and resourcefulness and inspires his students to pursue careers in the industry.

Accomplishments:

Building a Workforce Pipeline. John met one-on-one with each of his seniors every month to help them explore post-graduation pathways. As a result, 100% of his seniors have a post-graduation plan, including trade school enrollment, summer internship interviews, and applications to electrical apprenticeships. To support students with career planning, John's classroom offered the following experiences:

- Students participated in 30 work-based learning opportunities with industry partners.
- Classroom guests included HR professionals, mock interviewers, and trades leaders, who helped students hone resume, communication, and interview skills.
- Students gained hands-on experience across a wide range of skills: framing and drywall, HVAC, electrical, siding, roofing, finish carpentry, and more.

Photo credit: Seattle Public Schools

Growing the Program with Limited Resources.
With only a $2,500 district budget, John successfully secured outside funding to support his classroom, totaling $38,000 in donated materials and $25,000 in legislatively provided funding directed to Core Plus Construction classrooms.

- These funds have helped build a fully equipped, hands-on learning environment that prepares students for real jobsites.

Strong Enrollment.

- 40 students were enrolled in 2024-2025
- 50 students are enrolled for 2025-2026, including 13 returning second-year students, and 20 students are on the waitlist from across Seattle Public Schools
- Returning students will take on leadership roles, such as acting as Superintendents and mentoring their peers.

John's first year at Seattle Skills Center set a strong foundation for the Core Plus Construction program. With growing enrollment, expanded resources, and students leaving with clear career plans, the program is positioned to continue building a skilled workforce for the industry.

FUN FACT

In 2025, 20% of scholarship applicants took a CPC class in high school.

AGC Education Foundation
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www.constructionfoundation.org

Our mission is to Develop and Promote Construction Careers Through Quality Education and Training.

Board of Trustees

Welcome to our new Board members!
Pictured: Kindra Scobba, Christian Geismann, and Jen Stutz

President – Jeff Tobin, RMiller
Past President– Rick Workman, W.G. Clark Construction Co.
Treasurer – Elaine Ervin, Moss Adams, LLP, retired
Officer – Tyler Tonkin, GLY Construction
Officer – Curt Gimmestad, Absher Construction Co.
Officer – Brad Hayes, Sellen Construction, retired
Officer – Mike Price, Abbott Construction, Inc., retired
Officer – Julianna Plant, Lease Crutcher Lewis
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Named Endowments

All funds donated to the Endowment Fund remain in a restricted account with only the interest available for the intended purpose. These gifts create an impactful, everlasting legacy to ensure a donor's values and priorities are supported infinitely.

1990	*Chester and Elizabeth Johnson Memorial Scholarship*
1993	*Employees of Northwest Cascade*
1993	*Robert B. McEachern Memorial Fund*
1994	*Mr. and Mrs. Allan F. Osberg Scholarship*
1994	*Hugh S. Ferguson Endowment*
1994	*Larry Johnson/Prime Construction Co.*
1995	*MulvannyG2 Memorial Endowment in memory of Patricia Chikamoto Lee*
1995	*Mr. A.E DeAtley Memorial Scholarship*
1996	*Foushée and Associates Company, Inc. Scholarship Endowment*
1996	*Donald L. Clark Memorial Endowment*
1996	*Employees of Ferguson Construction Endowment*
1996	*Employees of GLY Construction Endowment*
1996	*William and Jean Scott Building Construction Fund*
1997	*Howard S. Lease Memorial Endowment Fund*
1998	*Absher Construction Company Endowment*
1998	*Egge-Koon Endowment Fund*
1998	*Employees of J.R Abbott Construction Training and Education Fund*
1998	*Frank and Susan Young Endowment Fund*
1998	*Robert W. Austin Memorial Endowment Fund*
1998	*Sellen Construction Company Endowment*
1999	*Donald and Clarice Bocek Scholarship*
1999	*E. Kent Halvorson, Inc.*
2001	*Robert L. and Betty L. Landau Scholarship*
2005	*Bob Barrett and Family Endowment Fund*
2005	*Byron W. and Alice L. Lockwood Foundation Endowment*
2005	*Dennis and Priscilla Dickert Endowment*
2005	*Pease Construction Endowment Fund*
2006	*Moss Adams LLP Endowment*
2006	*Nuprecon, Inc. Endowment*
2007	*UMC Charitable Foundation Endowment*
2009	*James P. Crutcher Endowment*
2012	*Betcher Family Foundation Endowment Fund*
2012	*Gene Colin Two Year College Scholarship Fund*
2015	*Joe Arrants Memorial Scholarship*
2015	*Matthew and Suzanne Lessard Scholarship Endowment*
2015	*AGC of Washington Endowment*
2017	*Ferguson Construction's Gene Colin Outstanding Educator Memorial Endowment*
2018	*Robert L. Landau Memorial Endowment*
2018	*Bob and Beverly Adams Heavy Civil Construction Scholarship Endowment*
2018	*Becky Wallace Scholarship for Women in Construction*
2020	*James M. Lessard Memorial Scholarship Endowment*
2021	*Ervin Family Endowment*
2022	*John Schaufelberger Endowed Scholarship*
2024	*Construction Financial Management Assoc. Puget Sound Chapter Scholarship*