

NAWIC EDUCATION FOUNDATION  
**Education Insider**

EDUCATING THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TODAY ... AND TOMORROW



A newsletter of the  
NAWIC Education Foundation  
Vol. 5, Issue 2, Summer/Fall 2008

# A Little Support from NAWIC Sponsors

*NEF sponsorship support keeps growing!*



In addition to the work of the dedicated army of NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF) volunteers, who carry out the mission and objectives of the Foundation, NEF receives sponsorship support from a variety of construction companies in the industry.

NEF offers five sponsorship levels for those companies who wish to become a "Partner in Education," in support of the purpose and goals of the organization. Sponsorships range from \$10,000 to \$500 annually.

The following industry leaders have stepped forward with recent sponsorship contributions. NEF would like to thank these "Partners in Education" for their commitment and support of the organization's purpose and goals:

- Autodesk Inc. for its \$3,000 grant to help fund the monetary prizes given to the national winners of the CAD

Design/Drafting. Autodesk, which is an architectural and engineering design software company, saw its support of NEF as a natural fit for the company, says Julie Wilder, manager of Worldwide Community Relations for Autodesk.

- S&B Engineers and Constructors sponsored the NEF Board of Trustees Luncheon at the NAWIC Convention. It also pledged \$5,000 as an NEF Sponsor. S&B Engineers and Constructors is an engineering and construction contractor. Michael Stilley serves as a public trustee on the NEF Board.

- The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER) for donating the prizes for NEF's fund-raising raffle held at NAWIC's Convention in Las Vegas. NCCER is a not-for-profit education foundation created to develop industry-driven standardized craft training programs with portable credentials and help address the critical workforce shortage facing the construction industry.

As an NEF sponsor, companies support the quality work of NEF's programs and are entitled to various promotional and marketing opportunities. To learn more about the benefits of a sponsorship, please visit the Web site at [www.nawiceducation.org](http://www.nawiceducation.org) or contact the NEF Office at (866) 277-2883.



To learn more  
about  
**NEF SPONSORSHIPS,**  
please visit:  
[www.nawiceducation.org](http://www.nawiceducation.org)

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# Around NEF

## Message from the President ... Sherry J. Yarbrough, CIT

*A letter to NEF supporters from the president.*

Dear NEF Supporters,

It has been a pleasure and an honor to serve as your 2007-2008 NEF President. Our executive committee members, board, committee chairs and volunteers have worked hard to accomplish our goals this year.



I'm glad to report that sales of our various education certification programs have been healthy. As you know, we introduced the new Construction Document Specialist (CDS) course this year. Debbie Mazzola, CIT, CDS, is the first graduate of the new CDS. See her

story on page 4. Work is continuing on the new Construction Bookkeeping 101 course.

Our K-12 programs continue to shine! Both CAD/Drafting (page 6) and Block-Kids Competitions (page 5) had outstanding nationwide participation. A special thanks goes to Autodesk Inc. for a grant of \$3,000 for the CAD/Drafting monetary prizes. Speaking of support, we would also like to thank S&B Engineers & Constructors that recently pledged their corporate sponsorship for NEF. Thanks also to NCCER – the National Center for Construction Education & Research – for providing our fund-raising raffle items.

Steve Corriher, division director of the O.P. and W.T. Crowder Construction Institute, Construction Technologies Division, at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) in Charlotte, N.C., was awarded the Carol A. Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award this spring. Although this is the second Carol Kueker Educator Award, this was the first time that NEF received nominations from NAWIC members. Read about Steve on page 3 of this newsletter.

We have exciting plans ahead for the NAWIC Education Foundation in the 2008-2009 year. Many thanks go to the NAWIC members who continue to support the Foundation through volunteerism and contributions. I hand the baton off to Sharon McGuinness, CCA, CIT, AFSB, president-elect. I know Sharon will serve NEF with enthusiasm and strong leadership as we continue to educate the construction industry today ... and tomorrow!

– Sherry J. Yarbrough, CIT  
NEF President

### 2008-2009 NEF Officers and Board of Trustees

Congratulations to the 2008-2009 NEF Officers and Board of Trustees. They were installed in September at NAWIC's 53rd Annual Meeting and Convention in Las Vegas.

#### *President*

Sharon A. McGuinness, CCA, CIT, AFSB  
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#### *President-Elect*

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#### *Secretary*

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#### *Treasurer*

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#### *Past President*

Sherry J. Yarbrough, CIT  
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#### *Executive Committee*

Robin Fulton Meyer, CIT  
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# Award Spotlight

## Steve Corriher Awarded Education Award

*Distinguished panel of judges selects North Carolina educator for NEF recognition.*



**T**he Carol A. Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award recognizes nonmembers of NAWIC for their passion and dedication to NEF programs and the promotion of construction education through a variety of avenues. The special award is given to select individuals meeting the high caliber of achievements demonstrated by Kueker. The award is named in honor of the late Carol A. Kueker, a long-time trustee and volunteer who served as past president of NEF. Kueker was instrumental in promoting the core purpose and goals of the organization.

Steve Corriher, division director of the O.P. and W.T. Crowder Construction Institute, Construction Technologies Division, at Central Piedmont Community College (CPCC) in Charlotte, N.C., was awarded the second annual Carol A. Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award.

A distinguished panel of judges from across the country selected Corriher out of 11 nominees for his outstanding abilities as an education advocate and his vision for construction education, both currently and

in the future. Corriher received the award during the Crystal Vision Awards Gala, held during NAWIC's 53rd Annual Convention Sept. 3-6, 2008, in Las Vegas.

NEF thanks the following individuals for serving as judges on this year's selection panel: John MacKinnon, executive director, AGC of Alaska; Doreen Riedman, ND Builders Association;

**“Steve is an outstanding advocate for construction education and is recognized for his leadership, passion and dedication ...”**

**– Sherry J. Yarbrough, CIT, NEF President**

Frank Young, FCPE, O'Connor Construction Management Services; Michael Baumbach, BE&K Inc.; and Dr. Dennis Bausman, Construction Science & Management, Clemson University.

As division director of CPCC, Corriher forged valuable partnerships with other construction-related organizations in his area to develop construction curriculum. The CPCC is regarded as one of the best construction institutes in the country as a result of Corriher's vision in shaping the curriculum content of the program.

“Steve is an outstanding advocate for construction education and is recognized for his leadership, passion and dedication,” said Sherry Yarbrough, CIT, NEF

president in acknowledging Corriher's receipt of the award. “He exemplifies the qualities and characteristics of a true construction education visionary, and NEF is proud to honor him with this award.”

In addition to his leadership at CPCC, Corriher's leadership and involvement in other programs is noteworthy. Corriher is an active member of the ACE Mentor Program of Greater Charlotte Metro where he developed a scholarship program for deserving students to attend CPCC. In addition, Corriher was one of several leaders to develop the Construction Industry Education Coalition (CIEC). In conjunction with CIEC and Central Piedmont Community College, Corriher was involved in getting 1,200 students involved in the Hammer House. The Hammer House is a hands-on building project where students learn how to perform specific construction tasks using power tools, math, teamwork and communication skills to build an 8' x 10' house.

Corriher sees the future of construction returning to the basics.

“I see an emphasis on skill sets such as communication, problem solving, teamwork and overall professionalism,” Corriher said. “We need to emphasize contextual math and critical thinking along with strong core values and imagination ... it is vital that all the various construction professionals communicate and work together as a team to ensure a quality product constructed in a cost effective and efficient manner.”

# NEF Programs

## Mazzola Conquers Revised CDS Course

*Ambitious project coordinator builds her knowledge of the industry through CDS course.*



Congratulations to Debbie Mazzola, CDS, CIT, who is the first graduate of NEF's new Construction Document Specialist (CDS) course, which was recently updated! The old CDS course was phased out in the spring and replaced with the new course.

Mazzola is the project coordinator for Donley Inc., a general contractor in Cleveland, Ohio. She says that NEF is "near and dear" to her heart and has been active on all fronts. She passed the Construction Industry Technician (CIT) test in 2003 and was involved in her chapter's Block-Kids program as well as the CAD/Design/Drafting program.

Among her many duties as project coordinator, Mazzola reviews drawings and specifications, prepares contracts and leads meetings with subcontractors on a project. She is aspiring to become a project engineer and says that the CDS curriculum has helped her toward that goal.

"The contents of the CDS material is exactly what I need for my job and to move forward in becoming a project engineer for my company," Mazzola says. "It could not have been more appropriate to help me in my career. I feel more confident in dealing with estimating and scheduling duties as a result of the CDS material."

Because of her current job duties, Mazzola found the CDS section on drawings and specifications to be easy. However, the section on estimating and scheduling was a different story.

**"The contents of the CDS material is exactly what I need for my job and to move forward in becoming a project engineer for my company ..."**

**– Debbie Mazzola, CDS, CIT**

"This section was a lot more challenging. I still studied very hard for this portion of the test, and it took me the entire three hours to complete it. At the end of the exam, I did not know whether I passed the section or not," she says. However, a few weeks later, a letter arrived in the mail informing her that she passed!

Mazzola encourages other construction professionals to enroll in the CDS program. She finds that the information is pertinent to the industry and the knowledge gained through the class would benefit anyone working in construction.

"NEF courses have helped me tremendously in my career and have made me more valuable as an employee to my company. I am extremely grateful to have these programs available for my benefit," she says.

To enroll in the CDS course online, please visit [www.nawiceducation.org](http://www.nawiceducation.org) and click on Education/Certifications.

## Block-Kids Reaches 4,458 Students

*Chapters use this award-winning program to introduce children to construction.*



The Block-Kids Building Program reached 4,458 students nationwide as a result of chapter and individual efforts to promote the contest in grade schools during the 2007-2008 school year. The national competition is sponsored on the local level by NAWIC chapters and other organizations.

The award-winning program introduces children to the construction industry to create an awareness of and to promote an interest in future careers in one of the many fields of the industry. The program is open to all elementary school children in grades 1-6.

Block-Kids involves the construction of various structures with interlocking blocks and three of the following additional items: a small rock, string, foil, and poster board. Local winners advance to regional competition, and one semi-finalist from each region is entered in the national program competition. National prizes are awarded to the top three projects.

Congratulations to the following Block-Kids national winners and their sponsoring chapter: First-place: **Brendan Owens**, Omaha, Neb., Chapter, Bio Diesel Plant; second-place, **Brianna Thompson**, Central Missouri Chapter, Animal Shelter; third-place, **Misael Gonzalez**, Fort Worth, Texas, Chapter, Glass-walled green construction museum.

National winner, Brendan Owens, will be honored at the Construction

Innovation Forum NOVA Awards banquet in November. This banquet is held annually in conjunction with the Construction Users Roundtable Conference (CURT).

### Did You Know ...

- *NEF is recognized* by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) as a quality training provider?

- *The NEF Building Design* program is going international? The Australian National Careers Advisory organization is working with NAWIC Australia to pilot test the program and then take it across the country. Career Advice Australia is a Commonwealth Government program aimed at young Australians from 13-19 years of age. It has a network across 213 local communities that work directly with schools and career advisers providing them with industry specific careers advice.

- *Great marketing brochures* on NEF Adult Education, CAD Design/Drafting, Block-Kids, K-12 programs and Construction Document Specialist are available for download at [www.nawiceducation.org](http://www.nawiceducation.org)?

## NEF Announces 14th Annual National CAD/Drafting Winners

*Close to 400 entries were judged; first place national winners received \$1,500 cash prize.*



**N**EF announced the winners of its National CAD/Design/Drafting Competition in the spring. The contest is open to senior high school students and provides recognition for creative design, successful problem solving and craftsmanship in preparing architectural drawings. Entries are evaluated for detail, accuracy and originality of work. Objectives of the contest are to introduce the student to the construction industry in a positive and challenging manner, while fostering a sense of self worth and building confidence.

Dove Sifers-Putnam, national chairperson of the CAD/Design/Drafting contest, said that during the 2007-2008 school year, 734 students were registered for the dual competition with 393 drawings actually submitted for judging – 364 entries for CAD and 29 for hand drafting.

First-place winner for the CAD portion of the competition was **Matthew Cottle**, a senior at Mount St. Charles Academy, Woonsocket, R.I. He was sponsored by the No. 1 Chapter of Rhode Island in Region 14 and was awarded \$1,500 for his first-place finish.

“For this year’s competition, students were given a design problem for a dentist’s office on an undeveloped piece of land,” said Sifers-Putnam. Students were required to incorporate as many energy-saving features as possible into their design of the dental office. Along with the design problem, students were given Web

site locations for green building, dental equipment and other research information to assist with their projects.

Some of Cottle’s “green friendly” features of his dental office included: lots of windows to allow natural light, structural insulated panel (SIP) insulation for the walls, allowing a 50 percent to 70 percent energy savings, reclaimed wood siding shingles and recycled plastic lumber for the deck of the dental office.

The first-place winner for the Hand Drafting portion of the contest was **Nathan Wright**, a senior at Roncalli High School in Indianapolis. He was sponsored by the Indianapolis Chapter in Region 4.

Wright also received \$1,500 for his winning entry.



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