

NORTH CAROLINA **CONSTRUCTION** NEWS

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Ten important commercial construction trends for 2018

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Publisher's Viewpoint



Mark Buckshon, publisher

I enjoyed Jim Pendergrass's contribution this month, describing the history and vision of the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of North Carolina, Inc. (PHCC of NC). The story, to me, reflects the deep heritage within state's trades and community, and our opportunity to publish it makes clear one of the most important missions of this publication: Supporting and encouraging relevant trade and professional associations within North Carolina and the nation.

Relevant associations, whether they represent a specific trade, political/values perspective (such as the Associated Builders and Contractors of the Carolinas, which advocates for merit/open shop contractors) or wider-ranging general groups such as the Carolinas Associated General Contractors (CAGC), all serve important roles in education, political advocacy, and networking and membership business development

Sometimes there are controversies, and these present special challenges. We want to get along with everyone, but what happens when there are disagreements? My policy is simple: Be fair, report both sides of the controversy and look forward to its resolution – which usually happens after some back-and-forth. Fortunately, these disputes are rare, and I'm happy to say, none are visible in this month's edition.

We're always ready to publish relevant association news and welcome your own stories. However, if you are a media relations specialist seeking publicity for your business or professional client, we'll often direct you to the advertising department to co-ordinate an editorial feature. The guidelines for free editorial coverage are that the news must be of much greater value to the readership as a whole than the person or organization seeking publicity.

The best way to reach me is by email at buckshon@nconstructionnews.com.

NORTH CAROLINA CONSTRUCTION NEWS

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North Carolina Construction News (NCCN) is distributed throughout the Carolinas construction industry.

NCCN is circulated on a controlled circulation list to qualified readers including members of most major construction associations in the Carolinas. The magazine is supplemented by a weekly e-letter which reaches more than 4,000 industry leaders each week.

Two projects recognized in CPN of NC Star Awards competition

North Carolina Construction News staff writer

The Construction Professionals Network (CPN) of North Carolina has presented its annual Star Awards for what the association describes as two outstanding projects “selected from a number of entities”

The group announced the awards on April 28 at its twentieth annual conference in Asheville.

Projects recognized were:

Project under \$10 million:

Greensboro Science Center Wiseman Aquarium Expansion

The \$1.1 million aquarium expansion, completed for an opening in the spring of 2017, was funded through private donations.



CPN members participating in the project included: Lindsey Architecture – Emily Hinton; Samet Corporation – Rick Davenport; ECS Southeast, LLP – Sun Breza, Brian Mass; Westcott Small & Associates – Tori Small; Systems Contractors – Ron Pitts; and Chandler Concrete – Don Goley.



Project over \$25 million:

New Davie County High School

The new school, funded with a \$54 million bond, replaces a 50-year-old building (which has been converted to be the school district’s headquarters).



CPN participants included: New Atlantic Contracting, Inc. - Ricky Adkins; Brooks Pierce – Arty Bolick; Conner Gwyn Schenck – Richard Conner, Jim Schenck, Jay Wilkerson; Marsh & McLennan Agency – Russ Bell; SKA Consulting Engineers, Inc.; Aaron Bopp, Chuck Cardwell, Stephen Robinson; S&ME, Inc. - Manan Adhyaru; and Sharpe Co. - Zane Sharpe.

CPN of North Carolina says it facilitates and encourages the association of outstanding professionals, executives, business owners and public officials related to the construction industry “as a network of individuals who are a trusted source for information, advice and service\, and who enhance opportunities for improving business.

“CPN’s mission is to utilize our diverse expertise for the common good of the membership, industry and community,” the group says.

For more information, see www.cpnofnc.org.



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Living into our why

A brief history of the PHCC of North Carolina

By Jim Pendergrass

WHY. This small, three-letter word has helped define the history and outcome of a distinguished list of events through time. For example, why did the Wright brothers travel more than 600 miles from Ohio to the Outer Banks of North Carolina to construct and launch a craft they believed would allow men to fly?

Oh . . . I suppose I just gave it all away . . . because they *believed something was possible*.

So, why did a group of North Carolina master plumbers come together in 1910 to form a professional association? Because they, too, *believed something was possible*.



The NC contingent in Washington DC at the 2017 Legislative Conference meeting with Representative Virginia Foxx



They believed that they could better advance the professionalism and knowledge of their trade on behalf of their and their neighbor's families if they worked together in ethical ways. They believed they could better protect their businesses when faced with legislative or regulatory overreach if they spoke with a unified voice. They believed in the basic premise of strength in numbers. And apparently, they believed that plumbers looked good in hats and bowlers, too!

So, they established an association that through time became today's Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of North Carolina, Inc. (PHCC of NC) in order to live into that why.

We believe that original Why is just as valid now as it was then. PHCC of NC's vision is that we are dedicated to the advancement and education of the plumbing and HVACR industry for the health, safety and comfort of society and the protection of the environment.

A commonly heard, decades-old phrase in our industries is "The plumber protects the health of the nation." Today, we would add the HVACR contractor as well, since our indoor air quality is also part of our health concerns.

Advancement . . . Education . . . Safety . . . Comfort . . . Protection. Pursuit of these values is our Why, and we pursue them through our mission to become so relevant that clients and the public identifies a PHCC of NC contractor as the best choice for a knowledgeable and reliable product and service.

What does all this look like at PHCC of NC day-by-day? It looks like efforts, activities, and involvement on a wide array of fronts, such as:



2017 PHCC of NC President Thomas Barbour at a trade show to encourage high school students in the trades



Cobe LaMunyan, the 2018 PHCC of NC President of the Board of Directors presenting the first place award for plumbing at the Skills USA competition at our Connections Conference



The 2018 SkillsUSA competition for high school students and trade school students

- Across the state, contractors gather in local groups to discuss and share best practices, to be informed of pertinent activities in their area regarding job permits, inspections, common code violations, etc. They transition from merely being competitors to being colleagues;
- Quarterly code intensive classes are offered to help contractors refresh their knowledge, and to learn about any code addendums that have been put into effect;
- A four year apprenticeship program is available for contractor members to access for training their techs and for attracting new employees to their companies;
- PHCC staff and leadership are collaboratively involved with a number of statewide and regional efforts aimed at addressing the challenges of a shrinking trades workforce, which includes work with the NC Community College System, the Department of Public Instruction, and NCWorks;
- A lobbyist is engaged by the association to keep watch for NC legislation that might adversely affect a member's company or livelihood. Included in this is a vigilant effort to guard against any reduction or removal of licensure for the professional services our contractors provide to the public for their health and safety;
- An annual Connections Conference trade show – held this year in Greensboro on April 11– brings vendors

who showcase the newest products and services available to benefit P-H-C contractors, and hosts the regional SkillsUSA-NC contests for high school and post-secondary school students in plumbing, HVACR, and sheetmetal; and

- Our affiliation with the PHCC-National association gives our members access to an extensive library of business and technical resources, national legislative and federal regulatory lobbying efforts, and much more.

We could go on if space permitted, and we trust you get the idea of the scope of our association's endeavors to live into our Why.

If you are a P-H-C contractor, where do you fit into this? Rest assured, the Wright brothers weren't so naïve as to think that if they were able to make their machine fly, it was only for *their* benefit. And *neither were the people who worked with them on the project!* They understood that their combined effort as a team, one might even say as a family, multiplied the effect of their belief in making a difference through their profession.

Will you join the PHCC team? How to join us in Living Into Our Why can be found at www.phccnc.com.

Jim Pendergrass is PHCC of NC's executive director.

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Ten important commercial construction trends for 2018



By Jim Lamelza
Special to North Carolina Construction News

Commercial construction, like any industry, has its ebbs and flows, its changes and expectations. Construction entrepreneurs always keep an eye on the near future, figure out what's next for their businesses, and get ahead of their competitors in adopting new ideas or reacting to inevitable shifts in the market.

With that in mind, here are 10 commercial construction trends to watch for in 2018.

1. Labor shortages

The 2008 recession caused a serious downturn in prospects for the construction industry. Since they began to recover, however, construction companies have had difficulty finding sufficient skilled workers to meet the demand. While it should be a purely positive sign that three-quarters of construction companies plan to add employees in 2018, this is countered by the fact that even more—82 percent—expect it will remain as difficult, or even harder, to do so. Companies that solve this riddle, be it through better training program, higher wages, a mix of the two, or other ideas entirely, will be at an advantage.

2. Prefab construction

Ever since the early 1900s, when Sears sold prefabricated homes and shipped them to customers in boxes for them to build on their own, the potential value in prefab construction has been apparent. Building on a controlled assembly line reduces construction time and costs. For the most part, however, no one has been able to put this idea to effective use; thus construction has

continued in the traditional style, with workers and materials placed on site and buildings raised from the foundation up. Now, thanks to the efforts of companies like Kattera and buy-in from major corporations such as Marriott, modular and prefab construction are seeing a resurgence.

3. Giant companies need more space

The biggest headline example of this is the creation of a second Amazon headquarters. However, other massive tech companies are expanding as well. Data center investment in 2017 far outstripped 2016; given the constantly increasing amount of data companies need to store on their servers, this trend does not appear ready to decline. Non-tech sector companies such as General Electric and Marriott are poised to open new headquarters as well.

4. Automation

Although many labor organizations fear automation's effect on the overall workforce, new advances have created robots that can perform tasks dangerous to human workers. This covers many industries, but construction businesses may take note of the robot that can tie rebar and form bridge decks, both for the safety of its employees and to help allay the aforementioned issues in adding headcount to their companies.

5. Resiliency

In 2017, the world was impacted by a remarkable number of environmental calamities. The devastation in Puerto Rico was the most newsworthy, but other hurricanes, heat and cold waves, flooding, and other disasters

all caused significant destruction. Governments and other organizations are coming to understand that constantly putting new buildings in place of the old is too costly, and a call for more resilient construction has been amplified. The United States government declared November 2017 to be Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience Month as a way to highlight the issue, and projects such as raising the streets in Miami Beach are potentially just the vanguard to a more widespread movement in construction.

6. Sustainability

Somewhat related to resiliency, in the sense of improving the environmental impact of industry activities, is the trend towards even more sustainability in construction. Although most projects incorporate some sustainable elements, there is a move towards initiatives like mass timber construction for massive projects such as stadiums, office buildings, and college dormitories. In addition, more and more construction companies are recycling their construction waste from all types of projects—building, renovation, and demolition.

7. Augmented and virtual reality, and the use of drones

Although the idea of a construction worker with a virtual reality headset and a pair of controllers rather than a hard hat and a toolbox may seem odd, this technology is seeing greater adoption across the industry. Through these systems, workers can control drones that serve numerous purposes, most of them designed for increased safety. Inspections of high-rise buildings can be carried out via drone cameras with a minimum of workers moving around in dangerous areas. In addition, building sites can be mapped and monitored from angles impossible for humans to reach. And, finally, AR/VR use may potentially draw in young workers who otherwise would have had little or no interest in the construction industry.

8. New regulations

Not all regulations that will impact the industry are construction-specific; the new tax overhaul, for example, is designed to have a substantial impact on businesses, with tax relief for contractors that can now structure themselves as C-corporations and pass-through entities. Zooming in on specific locations in the U.S., New York City now has a law that requires forty hours of safety training for construction workers, and a new law in California requires contractors acting as direct contractors on private construction projects to be "financially responsible for any wages, fringe benefits and union contributions left unpaid by subcontractors and their sub-tiers".

9. Increased public transportation investment

As infrastructure problems become more acute across the U.S., construction companies are seeing increased business from states and municipalities investing in major new transportation initiatives, or remodelling existing ones. For example, Nashville is proposing a \$5.2 billion plan for new infrastructure and transit; this still needs to

be voted on in May. Minneapolis has a Southwest light-rail plan that is ready to go if financing issues are resolved. And Boston's Green Line is being 'rebooted', expanding from Cambridge to Medford, MA, a 4.7-mile extension. This is on top of smaller projects, mostly in the area of repair, being planned nationwide.

10. Reduction in growth

Fortunately, a reduction in growth does not mean a lack of growth. Commercial construction, especially, is expected to have a double-digit percentage increase in starts next year, according to industry forecasts from groups such as Associated General Contractors of America. However, industrial and retail construction are both expected to see a decline. The industrial construction aspect is especially disappointing if true, as 2017 was a year of substantial growth in that sector.

If you're part of a commercial construction company, study these trends and use that knowledge to put yourself a step ahead of the competition. Look ahead, plan ahead, get ahead.

Jim Lamelza is chief executive officer of DataBid, Inc., a construction leads and opportunity service currently serving certain U.S. and Canadian markets in regions outside of North Carolina. However, his comments certainly have relevance here.

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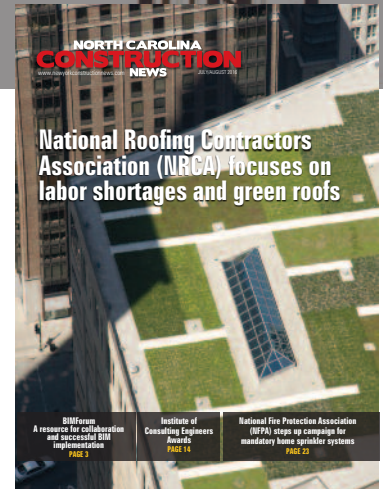
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THE TOP 10 CONTRACTOR INDUSTRY LEADERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

SEPTEMBER 2018

**NORTH CAROLINA
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IT'S TIME TO CELEBRATE the Top 10 Industry Leader for North Carolina!

In the September issue of the North Carolina Construction News your company and the other Top 10 Contractors of North Carolina can be featured. Articles will showcase projects, products, company profiles, anniversaries and your staff that make all of this possible.

Included in our report will be industry insight from leaders at the state and national level on what 2019 holds for the industry as well.

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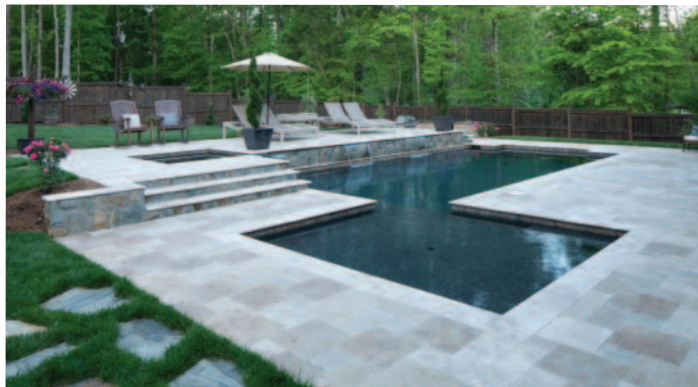
Unlocking hidden value for contractors

By Tom Casey
NCCN special feature

The housing market is booming in the Triangle, with more than 40,000 homes approved or built within the past seven years. With so many homes hitting the market, future homeowners have the luxury of choosing a house that meets all of their qualifications (neighborhood, size, yard, etc.). As a result, contractors need to make their project more appealing to homeowners, with added features, such as a swimming pool.

Typically, a house is built by contractors and then customized by the family. After buying the house, families then explore the idea of building a pool. In other cases, when a family already knows that they'll be building one, they will only choose a house that offers the space for a swimming pool. Contractors can consolidate this process, though. Rather than waiting for a family to bring in a pool builder after the house is built, contractors can be strategic and make pool builders a cornerstone of the building process.

Oftentimes, including a swimming pool builder in the process means that the contractor must take on the swimming pool expense until a homebuyer comes along. But, identifying a pool-building partner that has the ability to underwrite the pool, can be a crucial money-saving strategy. This partnership allows the pool builder to hold off on charging the contractor for the pool until the house is sold, even if the house sits on the market for an extended period.



Underwriting is a unique capability to find in a swimming pool builder, but those with the capacity to do it will allow contractors to focus on building the home and selling it, rather than being tied up in payments. The addition of the pool adds immense market value to the home, though, so the collaborated effort of pool and home building is advantageous for the contractor.

While contractors will love the money-saving benefit of this collaboration, it's important to consider the future homeowners as well, when choosing a pool builder. The underwriting process is a key attribute for contractors, but finding a swimming pool builder that can also provide service after the house is sold is just as important.

For one, swimming pools require regular maintenance, and if the house sits on the market for an extended period, someone will need to manage that. But also, new homeowners will be much more at ease knowing that, in addition to having the pool of their dreams, it already comes with a team ready to service the pool as needed.

With a growing market like the Triangle, contractors need to take the extra step to make their homes stand out. Bringing in a swimming pool builder from the onset can help contractors get the most value out of their project. A swimming pool builder that understands both the needs of the contractor and the future homeowner, though, can help contractors add the ultimate value when building a home.

Tom Casey is Vice President of Sales at Anthony & Sylvan Pools. He can be reached by phoning (215)-489-5626 or emailing TCasey@AnthonySylvan.com.

Industry recognition for excellence, leadership, and community service

Design and Construction Report staff writer

How do you determine the Top 10 Tile Contractors and Suppliers? In some respects, the decision is simple. Industry groups such as the National Tile Contractors Association (NTCA) have presented awards to successful companies through the past several decades, and these recognitions provide guidance for this list.

We've adapted recognitions and awards from several relevant associations with our own interpretations and experiences, to develop this alphabetical list.

You shouldn't regard it as a ranking-order hierarchy, however, and there are certainly many great tile businesses which should perhaps be on this list and may have the opportunity to receive recognition in future editions.

Artcraft Granite, Marble and Tile

You'll find many references to Artcraft employees and leaders within the NTCA website, reflecting the company's ongoing industry leadership.

The association has designated Artcraft as a five-star contractor for meeting criteria for "the highest standards in installation, performance, ethics, education and peer review."

Notably, the company has supported the NTCA at the national leadership level for decades. Butch Woefel, Artcraft's president and chief executive, is a past president and chairman of the association and has served on the NTCA's technical committee for more than 25 years. Meanwhile, James Woefel (vice-president and estimator) is the NTCA executive committee president and chairs its technical committee, which establishes industry standards for tile and stone installation throughout the U.S.

Belknap White Group

This family-owned flooring products distributor, based in Mansfield, MA, has grown since 1981 to serve the northeastern U.S. with more than 100,000 SKUs, plus technical support, guidance and service. Its recently retired Connecticut sales representative, Ron Heske, received the Southern New England Floor Covering Association's (SNEFCA) Lifetime Achievement Award for 2017.

"As an organization, we value integrity, teamwork, responsiveness, and growth," says BWG executive-vice president Bill Prescott.

Crossville, Inc.

Tim Curran, co-president of the Curran Group, the holding company for this tile manufacturer based in Crossville, TN, received the NTCA Joe A. Tarver Award in 2016, recognizing "an individual who has demonstrated lifetime achievement in the support and growth of the overall tile and stone industry."

Crossville is Tennessee's first tile manufacturer in Tennessee, established in 1986. It has since introduced the nation's first large format porcelain tiles and become the nation's only net consumer of tile waste materials (meaning it recycles even more material than it produces). "We are committed to pioneering products and practices that change the way the world views tile," the company says.

David Allen Company

If you have any business in North Carolina, you'll know about David Allen Co.'s superlative reputation, both locally (the company's headquarters are in Raleigh) and nationally. The business has taken a leadership role in relevant associations, notably the Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), where it was recognized nationally in 2015 as the ABC Contractor of the Year.

The company, established in 1920, is currently one of the nation's largest marble, granite, terrazzo, tile and underlayment contractors, with nearly 500 employees and craft professionals at its headquarters and offices in Birmingham, AL, Columbia, SC, Miami, FL and Washington, DC.

Grazzini Brothers & Company

This St. Paul, MN company won the 2016 NTCA Five Star Contractor Award – Commercial Installation. The business leads the industry in a variety of categories and it has a deep history, also dating back to 1920.

It is one of the most successful specialty contractors in the U.S., according to Engineering News-Record, and if you look at the map, you'll find the business has worked virtually everywhere in the nation, including remote Alaskan communities.

Hohn & Hohn, Inc.

Hohn and Hohn, Inc., based in St. Paul, MN, has been creating "spectacular tile installations" for more than two decades. "Proprietor Jan Hohn and her staff are passionate about tile, its versatil-

ity and seemingly limitless choices," the company says. "They willingly work with clients, contractors, architects and designers to achieve the desirable tile installation."

Hohn received the 2014 NTCA Tile Person of the Year Award., only the third time a woman has been recognized in the award's six-decade history.

H. J. Martin and Son

The Starnet Worldwide Commercial Flooring Partnership says it has honored H.J. Martin and Son based in Green Bay, WI, with the 2017 Gold Starnet Environmental Achievement Award. Starnet represents more than 170 locally owned, full-service flooring contractors throughout North America and annually recognizes member companies who undertake initiatives "to preserve our resources so future generations can enjoy them."

NCTS

NCTS, based in Northern California, has grown to become an almost \$20 million-a-year tile and stone contractor working throughout the world. It has gone far beyond the norm in training and career development, with its in-house training school and a 50-page curriculum. The company takes on challenging tasks including malls and hospitality projects.

See special feature profile page 12.

Pro-Tile and Marble

Based in Jacksonville, FL, Pro-Tile and Marble has earned its recognition by ensuring client work is done properly, from start to finish. The business established in 2014 supports relevant associations including the North East Florida Builders Association and the NTCA. It has been successful in retaining qualified employees by treating them with respect, giving them the tools they need to succeed through ongoing education.

See special feature profile page 11.

Turner Ceramic Tile

Kansas City-based Turner Ceramic Tile works with commercial builders and developers, designers and architects on a diversity of projects and it has achieved international success by focusing on its clients' priorities including budget, schedule and design issues. Services include panel tilting installation, cut to size granite, project value engineering, design and floor prep.

See special feature profile page 14.

Pro-Tile and Marble ensures each residential and commercial project receives individual attention and focus

Design and Construction Report staff writer

Launched in 2014, Jacksonville based Pro-Tile and Marble has evolved into a well-rounded installation firm with divisions in residential, commercial and new home construction.



Based on skills in the trade passed down from their father and after almost 15 years in the flooring industry, brothers Chris and Nick Harrington formed the company with two simple, but important goals: delivering quality craftsmanship and an unrivalled customer service experience for each client.

Today, the company has expanded into pre-fabricated fireplace installations and veneer stone and brick through its masonry division and works on projects ranging from residential homes to new construction, office complexes, restaurants, apartment buildings and industrial flooring applications as well as custom marble designs. "We believe in staying well diversified and that focus has led our company into many different sectors of the construction industry," says company president Chris Harrington.

Based on the values that inspired the formation of the company initially, Harrington says the company focuses on providing value to clients by educating them about doing any tile or marble project the right way, which seems to have been lost in today's 'get it done at all costs' project environment.

"What you cannot see and what is underneath the tile and the prep work that is performed is just as important as the final finished product.



Our goal is to give our clients an exceptional project that will last for years by holding our company to a higher standard than our competitors through rigorous company training and accountability."

The company manages the hundreds of projects it takes on annually through a team of seven full time employees and 10 full time subcontracting crews used on a weekly basis.

Among the team's past successes was a project last year – the Nassau County Sheriff's Office in Yulee, FL. Here, Harrington says an extremely tight deadline, combined with intricate connection points through intersecting corridors and detailed flooring patterns, made attention to detail and experience in handling difficult sites critical.

For that project, as with all of the work it undertakes, Harrington says they work closely with each client to fit their specific needs. "Each client will have a different set of problems

or concerns and our staff has been trained to address and create solutions to these specific needs. We do not work based on a one size fits all scenario."

He says the company is able to ensure quality people on every job because of a low turnover rate due to treating people and employees with respect and giving them the tools they need to succeed through ongoing education in the flooring industry.

"We hire people based on their specific skill set, and through multiple testing procedures for the position they are applying for, candidates must be able to excel in our company culture. We also hire people that are like us, like family and this leads to happy employees and a strong workforce who like what they are doing."

Pro-Tile & Marble is a member of the North East Florida Builders Association and the National Tile Contractors Association. The company is also a supporter of Builders Care in Jacksonville which provides construction services to the elderly and less fortunate within the community at no cost.

For more information, visit <https://pro-tileandmarble.com>.



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NCTS achieves global reach as tile and stone contractor with safety, training and focus on budget, constructability and responsiveness

Design and Construction Report staff writer

From its beginnings as a small tile and stone contractor in the heart of the recession serving a few select clients in Northern California, NCTS has grown to an almost \$20 million a year tile and stone contractor working all over the world.

President Roger Leasure says the company works with large general contractors who have stringent pre-qualification and safety processes. "General contractors who value a subcontractor that can help them with budgeting and constructability from design drawings to construction drawings like to work with us because we help them better define our scope of work and get it done," he said.

In addition to highly skilled and knowledgeable estimators and project managers, NCTS also supports the industry by growing its own skilled labor base through a recently established in-house training school. The company developed its own 50-page curriculum to address the current industry standards for means and methods on tile/stone installations.

On a weekly basis NCTS instructors bring in groups of setters and finishers to a school built in one of its warehouses, where they walk them through the fundamental principles of different installations and then practice the techniques on large scale mock ups.

"This will represent an investment of around \$200,000 this year but it's an investment to ensure we have skilled people ready to take on the most challenging projects," Leasure said. "The best way we can provide more value to our clients is to have a larger pool of quality installers than our competition. On a yearly basis we identify a handful of our installers who we think are qualified and send them through the Ceramic Tile Edu-



cation Foundation (CTEF) certification course. For a nonunion shop, this is the equivalent of a journeyman card."

The company also uses its own skilled labor to work with others in the industry. "I feel so many tile contractors have an us vs. them mentality," he said.

"Right now, 25 of our 130 guys in the field are from other licensed tile contractors. They like working for us because when they get a little slow we will keep their good guys busy and we pay them weekly without retention and organize and stock the job so they just need to show up and install."

Leasure says he is careful to note these subs are managed on their jobs by their own foremen and superintendents to ensure quality installations. "We count on them to help us out but in the end it's our name on the finished product, so we take the quality of their finished work very seriously. Our subcontracting partners who continue to work with us know our standards."

The company has developed an expertise in handling hospitality projects and malls but performs on a wide range of projects. Some no-

table projects completed and underway are: Thunder Valley Casino and Resort in Lincoln, CA; Cache Creek Casino and Resort in Brooks, CA; Imperial Palace Casino Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands; Meritage Resort and Spa Napa, CA; Grand Sierra Resort Reno, NV; Valley Fair Mall Renovation and Expansion San Jose, CA.

Leasure says mall work requires specific attention to detail and capabilities including demolition of the existing flooring at night, grinding nightly for public safety, shot blasting to meet the correct profile, floor leveling, installing of membranes for moisture and crack control all before layouts and installation begin.

"I remember on a past mall project hiring a local tile setter who walked in and saw the team on scissor lifts hanging plastic, a guy on a bobcat tearing out tile, guys on forklifts, everyone suited up in hardhats, glasses, vests etc. and he remarked that 'this isn't tile work, this is heavy construction.' I think that is the difference that sets us apart from your standard tile shop. We take on scopes of work that normal tile shops won't and our guys are trained in fall protection, boom lifts, fork lifts, OSHA certifications and current silica standards."

The company's work on the Valley Fair Mall renovation and expansion required tearing out 240,000 sq. ft. of stone flooring, grinding, leveling, and anti-fracture membrane. The team also had to deal with degraded concrete slabs in areas that were uncovered during demolition operations.



"We were in the middle of tearing up stone flooring down a major corridor when we noticed large chunks of topping slab were coming up with tile. In the end we had about 10,000 sq. ft. of area that we were able to salvage with an epoxy concrete healing product. We are now more than halfway done installing a patterned stone floor made up of 24" equilateral triangles that form a 3D cube pattern. It looks like a MC Escher painting."

As part of the expansion work, the team will be installing another 110,000 sq. ft. of the same stone paving. Both sides of the project will have large interior walls with a thin stone veneer.

"This material is pretty neat, it is 3/16" natural stone in large 4'x8' sheets with a foam and aluminum sheet backing," he said. "The panels are only 5/16" thick and we are adhering them to sheet rock walls. We are also doing some smaller areas with the same stone in aluminum honeycomb panels that are one inch thick on rail systems. This job will be a testament to how our company can handle large multifaceted jobs. West-



field has been a great partner on past and current projects."

NCTS is also preparing for work on three large Nevada projects. "We recently moved into a 5,000 sq. ft. space in Reno and have been hiring local installers to participate in the Reno/Tahoe boom. We have been finalizing plans as part of a joint venture to provide support to the Imperial Pacific Casino in Saipan, Asia."

Leasure says this wide geographic span is one of the reasons the company rebranded from its former Northern California Tile and Stone to NCTS. "Working on malls in different states and doing some cruise ship remodels in dry docks around the world created situations we just got tired of hearing, 'Northern California Tile, what are you guys doing here?'"


Through our joint venture partner who has opened up global opportunities for us like a hotel in Guam and now the Saipan Casino we decided it was better branding to go with something short non-regional."

Despite its growth and global reach, Leasure says if there is one phrase that summarizes the way the company does business, it is old school relationships. "Once we get to know you we will do anything for you on a phone call. South Bay Construction is one of our favorite clients. "We have a master subcontract with them so they will just call us to start work or issue us a two-page scope, and we go get the work done. Westfield is another one."

NCTS is a member of the Ceramic Tile Education Foundation; the National Tile Contractors Association; and the Natural Stone Institute. Leasure serves on the board of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation (JDRF), and runs a 501c3 Coloma River Races that puts on local trail races to benefit JDRF and kids who develop Type 1 Diabetes.

For more information, visit <https://www.nctscorp.com>.

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Turner Ceramic Tile aspires to perfection to achieve excellence in supporting general contractors with exceptional projects



Design and Construction Report special feature

Kansas City based Turner Ceramic Tile has a long history of supporting general contractors in their efforts to deliver exceptional projects. Today the company works on projects across a wide range of niches and scours the globe to find the best solution to meet each project's specific demands.

Josh Turner, vice president, started in the family business working for his father (Allen) while in high school, learning the business from the ground up, working at tasks that ranged from delivering product to grouting. At the time, the company worked primarily supporting apartment project construction through a team of six.

By 2001, the company had grown

and expanded into a variety of commercial efforts. Understanding the value of a family business, the company's growth has included the addition of other members of the family, as well as trusted employees who, Turner says, over time have come to be like family. The staff now numbers 60 and the company's range of services includes panel tilting installation, cut to size granite, project value engineering, design, and floor prep.

Working with commercial builders and developers, designers and architects, and on projects ranging from senior living to churches, restaurants, hotels and apartments, the company's five estimators each specialize in unique niches. This allows them to understand the nuances of each project type, and to be efficient

in finding solutions to meet their client's needs.

Turner says part of the company's success is its openness. "Despite this niche approach, we don't go into a project with blinders on. We are always working towards the goal of the owners, whether it is focused on budget, schedule or design issues. Our focused expertise means our team of professional are fluent in the wide range of solutions and options available to allow the client the greatest access to options."

"We are fortune enough to have some of the most talented employees in the industry," he says. "The crews are challenged every day. It might be a design that takes the most patient hand and precise installation or a project that requires a team of installers and finishers to





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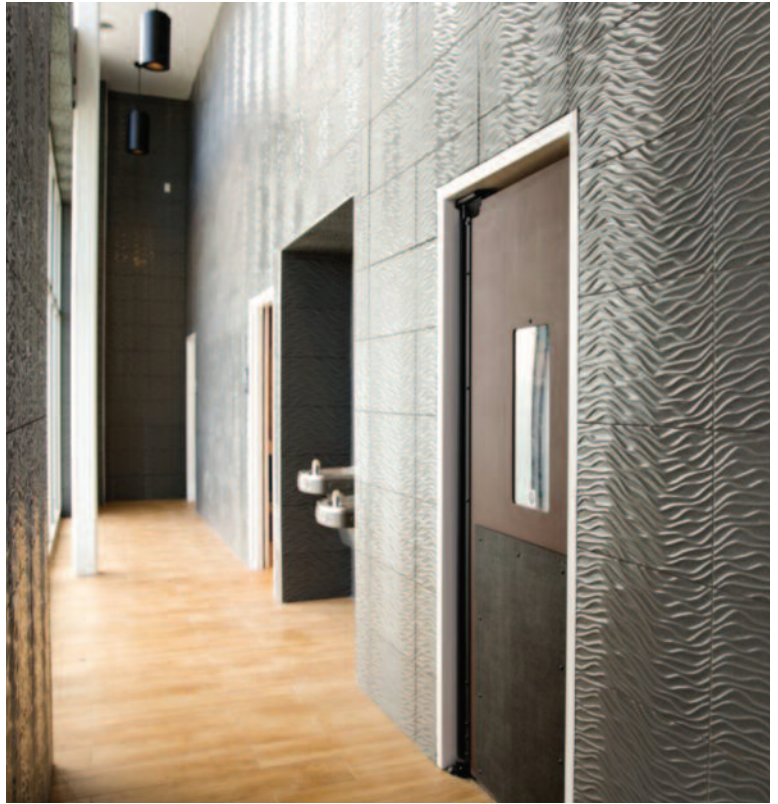
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meet the most difficult schedule.”

The team regularly tackles difficult projects Turner says. Some examples of the challenges the team has handled include 35-story apartment complexes, several stories of exterior façade tile, custom 5 ft. by 10 ft., panel tile throughout a grocery store and Olympic-size swimming pools. Turner Ceramic Tile had also worked for the TV series *Extreme Home Makeover*.

Understanding the demands of commercial construction, the company has developed processes to meet it. “Our complete team is focused on attention to detail,” Turner says.

The warehouse manager, for instance, tracks and has tile ready in the warehouse. “For deliveries we use trucks that have an onboard forklift. The drivers are also mathematicians and will break down a complete order and have placed exactly where the project foreman needs it.”

He says a quality control manager walks the projects and reviews areas of install weeks in advance while installers and finishers work to do what it takes to meet every goal. “Our project managers are on site daily reviewing the schedule, details, and resolving ongoing changes with the project foreman. At the comple-

tion the quality control manager and project foreman ensures the tile work has met the GC and owner’s needs.”

Turner says this saying hangs in the office. “Perfection is NOT attainable. But if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.”

Turner Ceramic Tile is a member of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) and the National Tile Contractors Association. The company employs Certified Tile Installers (CTI) and Certified Panel Installers.

For more information, visit <http://www.turnerceramictile.com>



Containers4Less:

Reliable temporary site storage at half the competitors' costs

NCCN special feature

North Carolina based Containers4Less traces its roots back to parent company West Brothers Transfer & Storage, established in 1946. Today, the company is committed to delivering low cost, top quality container storage rental services to the Raleigh-Durham area.

Floyd West began his small, local package and furniture delivery service in Raleigh and over the next 60 years, grew to offer full service transportation, warehousing, logistic services, freight brokerage, truck leasing, and portable trailer and container rental storage. In 2010 the owners directed their focus to the business of portable storage and in 2016, launched Containers4Less as a low-cost container rental brand.

Containers4Less has become a top provider of temporary onsite container storage rental solutions, primarily serving the construction industry. However, the company's services also offer several unique customer benefits, beginning with significant cost savings, that other industries also appreciate.

Being locally owned and operated, Containers4Less continues to price its container rentals at 50 percent below the cost of other leading



brands. According to Craig West, CEO/owner: "These are the same high quality, secure containers other brands charge twice as much for. We do this by maintaining our home grown local focus, and by minimizing our operating expenses."

The company's customer base is extremely loyal because of this, as well as for the guaranteed 24-hour delivery and pick up on all container rentals. "Our customers tell us this is a major advantage," West added.

For more information, call (800) 7867-9738 or visit www.containers4less.com.

Skanska wins contract to build new engineering facility at Duke campus in Durham

Skanska has signed a contract with Duke University to build a new engineering building at its Durham campus.



The \$85-million contract calls for the construction of a 14,000-sq. m. new engineering structure to house education, research and entrepreneurship initiatives at the Pratt School of Engineering.

The building site is located on Research Drive near the Fitzpatrick Center for Interdisciplinary Engineering, Medicine & Applied Sciences and next to Bostock Library.

In a statement, Duke University said that the new building will expand engineering student programming space by nearly 50 percent, with two floors for active-learning teaching and design spaces; specialized educational centers focused on entrepreneurship and energy, engineering and environment; and a Learning Commons dedicated to nurturing teaching excellence and the student experience.

The project is expected to be completed in November 2020.

New South Ventures plans to redevelop 14-story building in Durham

Durham-based New South Ventures plans to redevelop the NC Mutual Building, an 183,000-sq.-ft. office building in downtown Durham, Re-Business Online reports.

The 14-story tower — originally constructed in 1965 — at 411 W. Chapel Hill St. will be renamed The

Tower at Mutual Plaza after it is redeveloped.



Planned renovations include 16,000 sq. ft. of newly-constructed space on the first floor and a new mezzanine; a remodeled and expanded lobby with a glass curtain wall and revolving doors; stone flooring and wrapped columns; LED lighting; grab-and-go coffee and concessions; exterior façade restoration; skylights in the concourse and lower level; and the addition of new conference rooms, a fitness center, tenant storage rentals and indoor bike parking. In addition, the developer plans to add 15,000 sq. ft. of shared office and co-working space.

No construction timeline has been disclosed yet.

N.C. A&T State University plans to build five-story residence hall

The North Carolina A&T State University has unveiled plans to build a new five-story residence hall, the Greensboro News & Record has reported.

The \$32-million project calls for construction of a new 440-bed residence hall near the oldest part of its campus. Andrew Perkins, A&T's associate vice chancellor for facilities, said the five-story dorm will have an interior courtyard, common areas for students to gather and ground-floor retail spaces.

The dorm will be built on Bluford St., across from Harrison Auditorium that dates to 1939.

Construction is scheduled to start in December, with completion expected by the end of 2019.

UNC Greensboro breaks ground on \$105M facility

The University of North Carolina at Greensboro (UNC Greensboro) has broken ground on its new Nursing and Instructional Building.



The 180,000-sq.-ft. facility received funding from the Connect NC Bond, which was passed by North Carolina voters in the spring of 2016. The \$105-million building will house 39 labs, 14 classrooms, nine research suites and a community engagement center.

The School of Nursing, currently located in four buildings, will occupy approximately 50 percent of the building. In addition to providing more space for the School of Nursing, the facility will provide teaching and flexible laboratory research space for the School of Health and Human Sciences and the Departments of Biology and Chemistry, as well as classroom space.

The Nursing and Instructional Building will be located on the former site of the McIver Building, which was demolished earlier this month. The project is slated to open in the summer of 2020.

Columbus County commissioners approve \$18 million school construction plans

The Columbus County Board of Commissioners has approved Whiteville City Schools' request to apply for a state grant for construction of Whiteville High School.

The school system hired LS3P architect firm to design the project. The layout includes starting 60,000 sq. ft. of new construction and

10,000 sq. ft. of renovations at the high school, according to a report from WECT.



Phase 1 includes a new cafeteria, new classrooms, a visual arts facility, two health science rooms and a culinary arts venue. Phase 2 will add more buildings as they are needed, according to Whiteville City Schools superintendent Kenny Garland. It will also add vocational facilities, and include renovations to the media center and science lab. The weight room will be torn down to add a new gym.

The project will cost about \$18 million and is set to start later this year.

"When we looked at developing a plan for the current campus of Whiteville High, school safety was the top priority, and it is even more so after the incident that occurred at Parkland in February," Garland was quoted as saying. "We have taken into consideration various resources that we currently have on that campus, the buildings that we will be able to utilize, and the buildings that we will not be able to utilize, and what we're trying to do is to bring connectivity to the campus of Whiteville High School."

Two new construction project are coming to Mecklenburg County

Mecklenburg County is getting ready for the start of two new construction projects by two international companies.

Germany's KURZ and Japan's Yokohama Tire have announced plans to open new high-tech related facilities in Mecklenburg County, creating as many as 146 new jobs, according to WRAL TechWire.

KURZ, which focuses on hot stamping and coating technology, will build its North American headquarters in Huntersville, while Yokohama Tire will build a research and development facility in Cornelius. The company will invest \$18 million in its new facility and the company will hire 90 people by 2022.

Meanwhile, Yokohama Tire, which is a subsidiary of Japan-based Yokohama Rubber, plans to invest \$5.85 million in its new facility and hire 56 people.

10 airports to receive \$12.2M for upgrades

The North Carolina Board of Transportation has approved a total of \$12.2 million in state and federal funding for 10 airports.

The Ashe County Airport will get \$350,000 to acquire land and existing hangars, while the Kinston Regional Jetport at Stallings Field will get \$2 million for terminal building repairs.

The Mount Airy-Surry County Airport is set to receive \$480,000 for design and preliminary engineering on a new apron and new hangars, and the Odell Williamson Municipal Airport (Ocean Isle Beach) will get \$1.20 million for land acquisition, including rights-of-way and utilities, and preliminary engineering on an expanded runway protection zone.

Meanwhile, \$500,000 will go to the Piedmont-Triad International Airport for a taxiway over future I-73, \$3.80 million to the Plymouth Municipal Airport for construction of a par-

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allel taxiway and related permitting, \$37,000 to the Siler City Municipal Airport for preliminary design of navigation easements and obstruction clearing, \$1.74 million to the Stanly County Airport for 120-inch pipe rehabilitation, \$1.85 million to the Statesville Regional Airport for the construction of an eastside parallel taxiway, and \$256,360 to the Tri-County Airport (Aulander) for vault relocation.

Johnston County looking to raise more than \$130M to build new school

Johnston County voters could be asked this fall to borrow \$133 million to build a new high school and elementary school in the fast-growing western part of the county, according to The News & Observer.



The school board has made the request to county commissioners, who will decide the details of a bond referendum on the November ballot.

"We're growing a school a year," Mike Wooten, chairman of the Johnston County school board, was quoted as saying. "We are blessed to be in a county that's growing, but we are growing faster than we can build schools."

Johnston County was the third fastest-growing county in North Carolina last year. Its growth outpaced that of Wake County, which was ninth.

Developers plan to build five-story condo project in Raleigh

A group of developers has proposed a new condo project on Hills-

borough St. in Raleigh.

The group – which includes Mark Andrews, Michael Sandman, Andrew Sandman, Joe Whitehouse, Randy Robertson and Steve Simpson of South Atlantic Construction, wants to build a five-story condo to develop at the roundabout connecting Hillsborough St. and Pullen Drive.



Called *The View on Pullen Circle*, the project will include 35 one- and two-bedroom condominiums. It will feature a rooftop terrace, deck, parking, and bike storage.

"Our project name was very intentional. Every unit offers unique and special views of our city – from the Belltower to the Gregg Museum of Art and Design and Theatre in the Park. The walkability ratings for this property are among the best in Raleigh," partner Mark Andrews said in a statement. "The desire to live in downtown Raleigh has never been higher and *The View on Pullen Circle* offers residents a remarkable location and upscale features at an affordable entry point."

Construction is slated to begin late this year. The project is expected to be complete in late 2019 or early 2020.

KDC begins construction of four-story office building in Raleigh

KDC, a commercial real estate and investment firms based in Dallas, Texas, has started construction of a new regional office building for Credit Suisse in Raleigh's Research Triangle Park.

The new four-story office building, located at 6933 Louis Stephens Dr., is adjacent to the existing Credit Su-

isse office building developed by KDC in 2007. The new 205,000-sq.-ft. building will include "all the modern amenities today's workforce expects," KDC said in a statement.

The 62-acre campus will get a new food service cafeteria with Grab & Go Stations, IT cafés, a technologically advanced conference center, pedestrian trails and a variety of outdoor amenities.



Construction is expected to be completed in June 2019. KDC plans to seek LEED certification for the project.

Gensler is the project architect, while Brasfield & Gorrie is the shell and core general contractor. Meanwhile, Ballentine is serving as the civil engineer and Crenshaw is the mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineer.

80-unit multifamily project near Charlotte secures construction loan

Mills Construction Company and SunTrust Community Capital has secured \$11.35 million to build an 80-unit multifamily development in Dallas near Charlotte, The Mecklenburg Times reports.

The development, called Long Creek Apartments II, will include state-of-the-art appliances, on-site management, and amenities including a business center, computer lab, clubhouse, playground, picnic area, and community rooms. The apartments will be marketed to low and moderate income families.

"We saw a lack of high quality, affordable housing options in the metro Charlotte area, and we are pleased that we can play a part in meeting this need," said Mills Construction president Fred Mills, Jr.

“Long Creek Apartments II will make a real difference for those who are not being served by the existing housing supply in the area.”

“The lack of workforce housing is a nationwide problem,” said Keitt King, president of SunTrust Community Capital. “We are working with companies like Mills Construction to provide more affordable housing options where they are needed, and they are certainly needed in Dallas, North Carolina.”

Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2018 and is expected to complete in May 2019.

New 180-room hotel to begin construction in Greensboro

Plans for a Westin hotel in downtown Greensboro are moving forward after developers and the City of Greensboro reached an agreement with business owners about property, MyFox8 reported, citing a press statement.



The hotel, Westin Greensboro, is set to be finished before March 2020 when Greensboro hosts the ACC Men’s Basketball tournament, ACC Women’s Basketball tournament and first- and -second rounds of the NCAA Tournament.

The hotel will be built on top of a six-story, 850-space public parking structure. The 180-room hotel will include restaurants, 22,000-sq.-ft. of event space and a rooftop bar.

“We look forward to the development of the Westin Greensboro hotel in conjunction with the construction of a public parking deck to meet the growing demands of businesses,

restaurants and visitors to downtown Greensboro,” Greensboro Mayor Nancy Vaughan said in a statement.

Choate breaks ground on 22-story tower in Raleigh

Choate Construction and Dominion Realty Partners have broken ground on FNB Tower in downtown Raleigh.



Located at 501 Fayetteville, the 22-story building is being built atop an existing parking deck. The project is designed by Raleigh-based JDavis Architects.

The 420,000-sq.-ft. tower is being built atop an existing parking deck. Exterior elements include a facade with low-emissivity glass, metal skin, and vertical mirror glass fins.

“Downtown Raleigh is home to a rapidly growing population, innovative companies, award winning restaurants, risk-taking entrepreneurs, and amazing cultural institutions, and is also the place where Raleigh comes together and engages as a community,” Raleigh mayor Nancy McFarlane said in a press statement. “The FNB Tower project is a wonderful example of a project that is both reshaping our skyline and adding to the City’s thriving economy. We are excited to have FNB’s regional headquarters in Raleigh.”

Construction has started on the tower, and is scheduled for completion in March 2020. When completed, FNB Tower will be the fourth-tallest building in downtown Raleigh.

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Angela Latino to lead ABC Carolinas chapter



Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) of the Carolinas says Angela Latino will be the association's new president and chief executive officer, effective on June 1.

ABC Carolinas board chair Bill Caldwell of Waldrop Mechanical had been interim president/CEO since earlier this year when a candidate to replace former president Doug Carlson backed out at the last minute, forcing the association to restart its search for the key position.

Caldwell wrote the association's bi-weekly communicate that some 35 candidates expressed an interest in leading the chapter. Latino won the competition after working as president and CEO of ABC's New Orleans/Bayou chapter in Louisiana.

"In addition to managing day-to-day chapter operations, she oversaw the planning, development and implementation of operations for a stand-alone Construction Training Campus that is used to recruit, retain and educate the skilled workforce in the area," Caldwell wrote. She has strong ties with ABC National – recently serving as chair of the nNational Chapter Presidents Council, and the Presidents' Liaison to the National Board Executive Committee.

Caldwell said Latino "has a strong background in fundraising and community/industry service." She is a Tulane University graduate.

Kent Huntley takes helm as new NCMCA president

The North Carolina Masonry Contractors Association (NCMCA) has elected Kent Huntley as its new president for the 2018-2020 term.

Huntley, a partner in Huntley Brothers Company in Mint Hill, was handed the gavel to lead the association by outgoing president Robert H. 'Bob' Gates of Gates Construction Company at the closing banquet of the NCMCA Annual Convention in April in Asheville.

Huntley is 48 years old and a third-generation, brick mason. He worked for McGee Brothers Com-

pany for 23 years and in 2011, he and three brothers left McGee Brothers Company to start Huntley Brothers Company, now based in Mint Hill. The company has about 110 employees.

He has been married to Robin for 21 years and has three children, Miranda, 20, and Adam, 16, who both work for Huntley Brothers. Son Baylem is 12. They live in Monroe.

Huntley won what is now called the Samuel A. McGee Memorial Apprentice Skills Contest in 1986 and has participated in many other masonry competitions both as contestant, judge and as head judge. He is a licensed instrument-rated pilot. He enjoys flying, basketball, baking, cooking, bow hunting for deer and cross-fit exercising with wife Robin.

"(I was asked to) serve on the NCMCA board in 2014," Huntley said. "This has been a fantastic opportunity for me. I wasn't sure initially that I had done the right thing. Looking back at the opportunities it has presented to me, it has been wonderful. I hope I can continue the great leadership we have enjoyed from prior NCMCA officers. When I accepted this position, the other benefit I didn't think about is the friends I have made from across the state."

Huntley holds personal certification in the NCMCA Masonry Contractor Certification Program.

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