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The CAWV Scholarship Foundation has touched many young lives since it began doling out scholarships in 1991. West Virginia Construction News has caught up with a number of past scholarship recipients to see how their careers have been impacted by the award. In addition to the financial benefits associated with the CAWV’s scholarship program, students also find networking opportunities, internships and job offers. Pictured is Jennifer Stains who won the award in 2009. For more information on Stains, and many other past winners, see page 6 ...
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Fostering budding careers in construction is the mission of the CAWV Scholarship Foundation. Each year, foundation members travel to universities throughout the state to discuss construction as a career with students, encouraging them to apply for the CAWV scholarship.

Over the past 23 years, they have received and reviewed approximately 400 applications, interviewed well over 200 students, visited numerous classrooms, and presented nearly a quarter of a million dollars to young men and women seeking careers in construction in West Virginia.

What started in the early 1990s as an effort to cultivate a better educated workforce has grown into an elite program comprised of some of the industry’s best and brightest construction professionals. Up to ten awards are presented each year, but only one student is the top recipient. It is this student who receives the largest financial award, is featured in West Virginia Construction News, and who must accept the award – with a speech – at the CAWV State Meeting held at Expo each year.

West Virginia Construction News has reached out to past winners to see how their careers have progressed, how the CAWV scholarship impacted their path, and where they are now. Most of these students have continued in the construction industry and many have stayed in West Virginia, but each of them has made a lasting impression on CAWV members. Maybe it was the heartwarming “thank you” to her parents, or the shaky voice that showed how nervous he really was, or perhaps it was the confidence and firm handshake that made an impression. Many have left the State Meeting with not only a financial award, but with valuable networking opportunities, job offers and internships.

“Never have I been reserved when saying the CAWV scholarship was the very spine that catapulted my career and is truly the foundation of all my

CAWV Scholarship Foundation Chairman Gene Thompson presents 2008 winner Ken Hacker with his award during the State Meeting held annually during Expo. For over 20 years, the Scholarship Foundation has been launching construction industry careers. An award, as many winners quickly discover, entails much more than just monetary support. Networking, internships and job offers are highly valuable benefits afforded to participants. Hacker is currently working as staff engineer for the Morgantown Utility Board.
successes,” said Shirley Adkins, 2005 winner and Marshall University graduate. “Instantly upon winning the scholarship, the construction community embraced me and my curiosities, assuring that with perseverance the profession would see me through.”

Adkins began her engineering career with Art and Virginia King, whom she refers to as her “founding fathers.”

“Working with both Kanawha Stone and Terradon Corporation, Poca, afforded me the opportunity to discover my passion for vertical construction, and led me to obtaining employment with Pray Construction Company, Scott Depot,” she said. “There I was able to develop my project management skills, leading me to a project management and cost estimating position with the US Army Corps of Engineers.”

Adkins refers to her experiences working for the corps as “unsurpassable,” explaining that she has served, through a IIS Contract, the Department of Veteran Affairs, Department of Energy and National Nuclear Security Administration.

Adkins’ significant other successfully completed a urological surgery residency and, with the blessings of Raleigh General Hospital, Adkins was instrumental in the construction of their practice, Advance Urology.

“The facility serves the urological needs of southern West Virginia as well as feeds our souls as we are native West Virginians who intend on always giving back to our great state,” she explained. “With a start date of July 15, 2013, I will take on the next chapter of my career as chief engineer of construction and environmental services at Raleigh General Hospital.”

Adkins wasn’t the only one who expressed pride in her ability to give back to West Virginia. In 2010, after 10 years in engineering design and construction, Matthew Echard returned to West Virginia and began a structural engineering firm, Echard ingenieurBüro, Glenville.

Matthew B. Taylor, 1996 winner, credits the CAWV scholarship for opening many doors for him in the construction industry. The award is a respected and well known commendation for those entering the construction industry following graduation. Taylor also credits the program for awakening a sense of civic responsibility and industry pride. In addition to an accomplished career with the Virginia Department of Transportation as a construction engineer, Taylor spends his spare time encouraging the next generation of engineering professionals.

2009 scholarship recipient Jennifer Stains is currently employed by Astorino, Pittsburgh, PA. She holds a Masters Degree in Civil Engineering from West Virginia University. She credits the scholarship for not only easing the financial burden of school, but landing her with an internship with W. Harley Miller Contractors, Inc., Martinsburg.
“West Virginians have a strong pride in our culture,” Echard, who won in 1998, said. “I have a desire to contribute to West Virginia, and regardless of the circumstances that led me out of West Virginia, my main motivating factor in starting an engineering firm was to contribute to the state.”

Echard, who went on to receive a Master’s Degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) after graduating from West Virginia University, has worked on projects on the east and west coasts, in Jordan, Dubai and Saudi Arabia. He recalls the scholarship interview as a unique experience that helped mold his career path.

“Every bit of money I received while in school was helpful,” he said, “but, for me, the interview gave me the confidence I needed to pursue my goals. The the award provided the financial support to bring them to fruition.”

Many of the scholarship recipients noted the interview process was a very memorable experience. After submitting an application, the Scholarship Foundation reviews each student’s information and ranks them. The highest ranked students are invited to the CAWV office for an interview with a panel of construction professionals. One student at a time fields a bevy of questions from multiple construction industry titans.

“I remember interviewing for the scholarship and being very nervous,” said Jason Kitzmiller, 2000 scholarship winner and owner of CAWV member firm ALL Construction, Mt. Storm. “Sitting down at a table with the “Who’s Who” in the construction business was a little intimidating. After being in the room for a couple minutes and after few questions, I knew I was supposed to be in the construction business. The interview process also showed me that I was more interested in the business aspect of construction.”

Kitzmiller’s scholarship interview also left him with sage advice he has carried with him through his experiences running ALL Construction, which performs heavy highway, bridge, wind power construction clearing, utility and site development.

“At the time, I was just starting to bid work and CAWV Scholarship interview process was a key part of finding my path in the construction industry. The opportunity to interview with construction professionals was invaluable and helped me grow my business.”
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Foundation Chairman Gene Thompson gave me some of the most important advice I have ever received about estimating. He said, ‘Son, all you need to be concerned with is your number. Bid the job for what you need to because your number is the only one that you have any control over.’ I have always tried to keep that in the back of my mind.”

Kitzmiller explained that one of the questions he fielded in the interview was where he expected his career to be in 10 years.

“It was my goal to be able to bid the Corridor H project when it came by my parents’ home,” he told the committee at the time. “Unfortunately, due to the amount of large structures on the job, it was not our type of project. However, we were approved to bid by our bonding company and that was really the goal all along.”

Currently, Kitzmiller is the sole owner of ALL Construction and manages the day to day activities and finances.

“The scholarship has been very beneficial to me in so many ways,” he said. “The monetary support was invaluable at the time, but I was also able to meet so many people in the CAWV during the process. Making contacts through the CAWV scholarship has been a very important part of my success thus far. For instance, I was introduced to our current bonding agent during the night of the scholarship reception.”

Like Kitzmiller, many students who make it to the interview have a clear picture of what construction entails because they have been raised in the industry.

L. Matthew Taylor won the award in 1997. He credits the CAWV scholarship for showing him the value of an industry organization’s involvement in the development of early career professionals. He is currently working for DuPont and is involved with college recruiting, internships and local construction users roundtable organizations.

Coffman was born and raised in the company and began in construction as a teenager. Following graduation from West Virginia University, he accepted a position with Ahern & Associates, South Charleston. The heavy highway and bridge work was a departure from his family’s building business.

“I enjoyed working at Ahern & Associates,” he said. “I learned a great deal in that short year. Being born and raised in building construction, the lure and fulfillment of watching a building come together pulled me back into the family business.”

Coffman is an estimator / project manager for Phoenix Associates, and explained that they are “all estimators until we acquire a job. Then we manage the project from start to finish as opposed to passing it off to a project manager.”

Jennifer Stains, a West Virginia University graduate, was also raised in the construction industry. Her drive and desire to continue working in the industry was the crux of her 2009 acceptance speech.

“After being notified I was going to be awarded the CAWV scholarship, my parents, grandparents and I were invited to attend Expo. While I enjoyed spending the day networking with the various vendors, contractors, and past scholarship recipients, the highlight of the day was receiving the scholarship with my parents and grandparents in attendance,” she said.

During her acceptance speech, Stains thanked her father, who owns a home building firm in the Eastern Panhandle, for exposing her to the industry and encouraging her to reach her full potential as an engineer.

“In addition to the obvious benefits of easing the financial burden of college, for which I always will be grateful, I was able to obtain an internship with W. Harley Miller Contractors, Inc., Martinsburg,” she said. “Not only is WHM a family-owned company, they also treated me as if I were one of their family from day one. The internship
exposed me to various aspects of the construction industry, from interacting with subcontractors, suppliers, architects and engineers, beginning with the bid process through completion of a project. The experience with WHM reinforced my belief that, in addition to becoming an engineer, I wanted to be a part of the construction industry.”

Stains went on to receive her Master’s Degree in Civil Engineering from West Virginia University in 2012. She is now working for Astorino, a family-owned A/E/Design-Build firm in Pittsburgh.

“It was my experience with the family-owned WHM that helped me decide between a job offer from another family-owned company and a government job in a neighboring state,” she said. “I chose to accept the position with Astorino and work today as a member in their structural engineering department.”

Jacob Brown, who won in 2011, joins Stains in Pittsburgh. Brown captivated the CAWV Scholarship Foundation and the State Meeting attendees with his experience as a stonemason at The Greenbrier Resort and his tour of duty in Iraq.

“The CAWV scholarship made it much easier for me to go to school,” Brown said. “After winning the award, I didn’t have to work as much. I really appreciate the fact that the CAWV did that for me. I may not be in West Virginia now, but I would like to come back once I get my P.E. It is tough to enter construction in West Virginia right after graduation. There are only a few big firms and it is hard to get the experience you want right away.”

Brown is working for Rolls Royce in the nuclear division as a structural engineer. He is performing design engineering work at a nuclear power station along the Ohio River, located minutes from West Virginia.

“I feel very loyal to the CAWV after receiving the scholarship,” he said. “I really felt like everyone went out of their way to help me succeed.”

CAWV scholarship winners are afforded many opportunities including networking, job offers and internships. But, the financial benefits cannot be overlooked. One of the Scholarship Foundation’s missions is to find students that need monetary help to continue their education.

“I am still very grateful for the CAWV scholarship,” said Martin Padula, who won the award in 2001. “It helped me pay for school and pursue my dream of being an engineer.”

Padula, who received an undergraduate and graduate degree in two years at West Virginia University, took 20 hours per semester for five semesters to meet the program’s 100 hour requirement.

“I worked 30 hours or more per week to pay for school, on top of a grueling academic schedule,” said Padula, who currently works as a structural engineer for Denver, Colorado based Ulteig Engineers. “The CAWV scholarship alleviated the burden of working so hard and gave me the freedom to focus on school work.”

Adam Lease, the 2002 recipient, echoed that sentiment stating, “the CAWV scholarship provided me the money I needed to stay on my career path.”

Lease currently works out of Cives Steel Company’s Winchester, PA plant. He notes that the awards ceremony was a very memorable experience for him.

“I remember accepting the award and giving a speech to a room full of contractors at the Marriott,” he said. “I thought it was a great way to accept the award and I was extremely honored to be there.”

Lease met Bob Orders, Orders Construction Company, St. Albans, during the State Meeting and spent the following summer working for the company. Ken Hacker, 2008 winner and Fairmont State University graduate, shared a similar experience.

“Winning the CAWV scholarship launched my career, and that truly had a positive effect on me,” Hacker said. “I met so many people during the State Meeting. Mike Griffith, J.F. Allen Company, Buckhannon, contacted me and offered me an internship with them in their utilities division, helping with bidding and construction. After graduation, I accepted a full time position with the company.”

Hacker spent some time with the City of Fairmont as assistant engineer for stormwater utilities and recently

Matthew Echard, who won in 1998, recently returned to West Virginia and began a structural engineering firm, Echard ingenieurBüro, Glenville. Echard says that in addition to providing financial support so that he could complete his degree, the interview process increased his confidence in his chosen career path.

Jese Vance, 2010 scholarship winner, just graduated in May. He is beginning his career with Michael Baker Corporation, Charleston. Vance calls the scholarship program an amazing experience and notes that winning opened many doors of opportunity to him.
accepted a position as staff engineer for the Morgantown Utility Board.

“I hope to obtain my P.E. license in the near future,” he said. “I work with the stormwater and sanitary sewer utility. I design and install many aspects of the utility system while also working with the permitting side of stormwater.”

Hacker’s most vivid memory of the scholarship process, however, was the notification that he had won the award.

“One of my childhood friends and I were selected to interview as finalists for the scholarship and we traveled to Charleston together for the interview,” he recalled. “When I was being interviewed, I remember how pleasant everyone was. The panel of judges made me feel very comfortable and I felt confident that I had answered their questions well.

“During the ride back to Fairmont, my friend got the call that he was selected as a runner-up for the award, but my call didn’t come,” he said. “I was waiting, but nothing. We decided to stop for dinner just before we got back to Fairmont to celebrate my friend’s good news. He was excited and we were all happy for him. Just as we finished eating, my phone rang. It was Gene Thompson letting me know that I was selected as the top winner. I had already accepted the fact that I had not won. Gene’s call was truly a great surprise.”

Roy Randolph, 2006 winner, also stepped off the podium after accepting his award to a job offer, a welcome event for a student whose father had recently passed, whose car was failing and who was struggling to afford school and keep up with responsibilities at home.

“After winning the first place scholarship award and accepting the check at the State Meeting, the fruitfulness of the CAWV was clearly evident,” Randolph said. “Opportunities arose like I would never have imagined.”

Randolph accepted an internship with Kanawha Stone at the United Hospital Center project in Bridgeport as a field engineer. As the earthwork portion wrapped up, the Construction Manager offered him a job, allowing him to continue working on the same project for the building construction of the hospital.

“After a year and half, the project wrapped up, and, instead of moving out of state, I began working in the energy industry,” he said. “I spent many weekends and evenings pressure washing equipment, welding/fabricating, and doing small excavation projects to build capital and acquire assets within my own company, RDR Energy Resources.”

About six months ago Randolph set out on his own. He now operates a welding/fabrication and contracting company offering services to a wide range of industries.
“The CAWV germinated the seed in 2006 which sprouted initial field experience opportunities with Kanawha Stone Company that ultimately resulted in a strong root system for RDR Energy Resources,” Randolph said, as he asked for CAWV membership application. “Thanks again to the CAWV for who you are, what you represent, and what you have done for my career.”

As Randolph has flourished during the past seven years, others are just beginning their trek in the construction industry. Jese Vance, 2010 winner and Marshall University graduate, remembers the process as opening many doors for him.

“The CAWV scholarship brought many options and job opportunities to light,” he said. “I’ve told all the classes behind me to apply for the program. I left the State Meeting with 15 to 20 business cards from the highest rated contractors in the state of West Virginia. The experience was amazing and the award was a huge help in pursuing my educational goals.”

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Vance is currently pursuing his P.E. and is working at CAWV member firm Michael Baker Corporation, Charleston, after graduating in May.

As Vance begins his construction industry career, other CAWV scholarship winners are firmly planted in the industry and actively contributing to its success. Many association members are familiar with Lesley Rosier-Tabor. She won the association’s first award in 1991. After graduating from West Virginia University Institute of Technology, she took a faculty position with the university. She currently serves as the executive director of the West Virginia State Board of Registration for Professional Engineers.

“Even though it was nearly 25 years ago, I remember much of the interview process and recall a number of the individuals I met that day, and during the CAWV events to follow my selection,” Rosier-Tabor said. “I remember having to interview personally with Sam Bowling, Dougherty Company, Charleston, in his company office and then went on to interview in front of a panel of contractors at the CAWV office. It was a great experience to meet many of the movers and shakers in the construction industry.”

Now a mover and shaker herself, Rosier-Tabor has focused her attention on improving the industry. In addition to a number of outreach activities, she and the P.E. Board have worked diligently to increase the number of examinees, automate the state board’s office, and implement new state-of-the-art technologies such as e-government processing and online renewals. She is actively involved with the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying, and in 2012 was recognized by her peers as the NE Zone “Enny” Distinguished Service Award Recipient and the National NCEES Meritorious Service Award. Rosier-Tabor has been an active member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) for nearly 25 years and is a past president of the ASCE-WV Section, in addition to serving as a faculty advisor and practitioner advisor of the WVUIT ASCE award-winning student chapter. Her efforts have been recognized at the society’s state and national level as she was named the 2000 WV Young Civil Engineer of the Year, the 2001 National Young Government Civil Engineer of the Year, and, most recently, 2010 WV Civil Engineer of the Year.

“I applied for the CAWV scholarship with the hopes of helping my parents cover some of the costs of the senior year of my college education,” she said. “As a first-generation college student in my family, my parents were about to have two daughters in college at the same time and we tried to help out as much as possible. Although I had a good grade point average, I was a female in a fairly male-dominated industry, so I did not have high hopes of winning. When I received the phone call that I was invited for the interview, I knew I had

Foundation Chairman Thompson and Adam Lease, 2002 recipient, are pictured at the Mariott hotel. Each winner must accept the award with a speech during the CAWV State Meeting, held annually during Expo. Lease, who is operations manager for Cives Steel in Winchester, PA, says accepting the award was an honor for him.
made the short-list and the rest was up to me. I had been actively engaged in the construction industry each summer during my engineering education, working for the WV Department of Highways on construction projects as well as working underground and assisting with mine surveying for Cannelton Industries. I hoped sharing of those experiences would help carry me through the interview and provide some lasting impressions for the selection committee. Apparently it worked!"

Civic responsibility and pride is a theme mirrored by Matthew B. Taylor, 1996 winner and West Virginia University Institute of Technology graduate. In addition to his career with the Virginia Department of Transportation as a construction engineer, Taylor spends his spare time encouraging the next generation of engineering professionals.

“I spend my spare time volunteering with local high schools, participating in career day events to discuss engineering as a profession with prospective students, encouraging the next generation of engineers to follow their dreams,” he said. “My future goals are to complete my Master’s Degree, and to teach part-time at the college level.”

Taylor’s resume includes managing over $50 million in projects in the southwest region of Virginia. This includes the Coalfields Expressway and the rehabilitation of the I-77 East River Mountain and Big Walker Mountain tunnels.

“I recall several of my college classmates being interviewed by the CAWV Scholarship Foundation,” he said. “I spoke to each of them as they were walking out nervous and scared. I went into the interview process relaxed, and approached it as a learning experience for my future. I was able to answer all of the questions, and found that I had something in common with the CAWV panel, I was an owner of a part-time construction business, which I used to help fund my college education.”

Taylor says it was the recognition he received as being the CAWV scholarship winner that launched his career in construction.

“The CAWV scholarship is recognized throughout the region by engineering and construction professionals. It was this recognition that formed a positive building block to my resume, and the beginning of my career and my future in construction engineering,” he said.

“The award resulted in over ten job interviews during my last semester of college, which gave me the options for a career in the private sector as well as the public sector. The CAWV scholarship enabled me to pay for my last year of college, and, as a result, I graduated with no debt or school loans from my college education.”

L. Matthew Taylor won the award the following year, 1997. He credits the CAWV scholarship for showing him the value of an industry organization’s
involvement in the development of early career professionals.

“For starters, the CAWV scholarship gave me a lead on a summer job with Ahern & Associates working on the new bridge and interchange at Cross Lanes,” said Taylor, who graduated from West Virginia University Institute of Technology. “Even when I received the scholarship over 15 years ago, it was apparent the impact and need for early-career renewal and development in the construction industry. That concept stuck with me and has influenced my involvement in college recruiting and internships as well as involvement in the local Construction Users Roundtable organizations.”

Taylor recently moved into a position as regional design office manager for Dupont in Newark, Delaware following six years with the company in an owner’s construction management role in Belle, West Virginia, and Louisville, Kentucky.

Taylor notes that his experience with the Scholarship Foundation and interview process was a valuable exercise.

“One of the events in the process that sticks out in my mind was the panel interview. I had no idea that my interview was going to be with a half-dozen executives,” he said. “Walking into the room was quite intimidating, and I couldn’t tell you what any of their questions or my answers were, but it was valuable experience for a young man that would have to both participate in those types of interviews in the future, and have the opportunity to sit on the other side of the table as well.”

Alan Reed, 1995 recipient and West Virginia University Institute of Technology graduate, also noted the interview process was a valuable experience.

“The CAWV Scholarship Foundation interview was the first time I had been interviewed by panel of professionals,” Reed said. “I had never experienced anything like that, but it remains something that I am proud to have accomplished.”

The CAWV scholarship is available to sophomores, juniors and seniors enrolled, or planning to enroll, in civil engineering or a construction related four year degree program in a West Virginia college or university. Eligible schools include West Virginia University (WVU), West Virginia University Institute of Technology (WVU-IT), Fairmont State University (FSU), Bluefield State College (BSC) and Marshall University (MU).

*WVN was unable to find every scholarship winner. Should you have information on any of these people, please contact Lindsay Stephens at (304) 342-1166 or lstephens@cawv.org.
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Reed, who is currently assistant district engineer for the West Virginia Division of Highways, District 10, oversees all operations in four counties.

“I made many contacts in the interview process that could have easily affected my career path,” Reed said. “The scholarship really helped me to continue my education. I was an older student and had worked in the industry for 12 years before going back to school full time. I ended up winning both the CAWV scholarship and the national Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America scholarship that year. It was a big help to me.”

Virginia King, Kanawha Stone Company, and long-time Scholarship Foundation member, notes that the program is an excellent way for association members to not only give back to the community, but to invest in the future of the construction industry.

“It is vital to attract young people to the jobs and careers available with contracting companies in our state,” she said.

CAWV Scholarship Foundation Chairman Gene Thompson has frequently called the program the most enjoyable job he has ever done.

“I love going into the classroom and meeting students who are excited about the construction industry. Each year I get to interview interesting young kids who will be the ones to take our places as industry leaders in the future,” he said. “These kids work so hard and I am glad to see so many of them have gone on to have rewarding and successful careers.”

As Foundation Chairman, Thompson spends the most amount of time with the potential scholarship winners. He travels to the schools to promote the program, an event which frequently turns into a real-world lecture for engineering students interested in construction as a career.

“It doesn’t always work out that the scholarship winners get to stay in West Virginia,” Thompson said. “In many cases, unfortunately, the jobs are just not available for the students when they graduate. But, I am happy to see that CAWV members continue to step up and help these students get a foothold as they enter the industry.”

King added, “The scholarship process is a good introduction for student applicants to explore opportunities in the construction field. The positive influence of the scholarships on career decision making is evident.”

By Lindsay Stephens

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I believe that the workforce for construction will remain strong as the gas industry slows. For those working in gas extraction, more operators and labors will become available which can be cross trained to do other aspects and trades in construction. We will need to spend more dollars on safety training and job skills, especially for those entering construction from the gas industry.

But, I feel that by continuing to do things right, our reputation and work product will attract the best workers to us. Word of mouth is the best recruiter I know. In order to be proactive, I plan to recruit the younger generation through job fairs and examining those students who have received scholarship awards. Our benefits, family atmosphere and competitive salaries will retain workers to our company. However, young engineers and college graduates are often extremely impatient with their career growth. It is difficult to keep young workers with a company long enough for them to truly learn the construction industry.

We are not really able to find the people we need because there is not a steady flow of workers getting trained. When the construction industry is hot, people want to jump in, but they shy away when work slows down. A lot of people, particularly those in the younger generation, aren’t interested in construction as a career because of the uncertainty associated with it. I’ve read where the construction industry in the west and southwest United States are having an awful time getting workers. These workers have made $30 to $40 an hour in construction, but they have been laid off for two years. I think a lot of people would prefer a lower wage with a steady paycheck. They don’t want to come back after layoff.

The younger generation isn’t like the older ones, but they still have to work. I hire young guys and try to train them.
If they show ambition, then I foster that. Right now, laborers are making a good wage, often times higher than someone coming out of college. I try to hire people who know what construction is about by recruiting through word of mouth or by working with someone directly. Some of them aren’t the workers I expected them to be. Either they can’t handle getting dirty or there is too much pressure for them, so they move on.

I try to treat all my employees right and keep them encouraged. So far, I haven’t had much trouble finding people, but it is hard to get people with experience. I’ve got a few experienced guys who will invest in the younger ones, but I know they are going to retire. I don’t foresee a problem finding people. I focus on keeping good employees who work hard. Sometimes I’ll find a good guy and wish for five more just like him, but I have to deal with what I’ve got.

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Heavy equipment operator seems to be a dying trade. I am on the advisory committee at New River Community College in Ghent and they can provide basic training, but they don’t have the facilities to provide the hands-on training experience that students need to be up to par when they graduate and step onto a job site. This issue is compounded by the state prevailing wage, which is very high. It is hard to take a guy who is just starting out and pay him $48 per hour when he can’t do the work. It might help to get a reduction from the labor board, but that is hard to get. I’ve had people who made over $90,000 per year running equipment, but most of the younger generation students want to pursue a college degree. Another major problem, particularly for our company in Southern West Virginia, are drugs. I’ve lost some good people because they can’t stay away from drugs.

The only thing that helps my workforce is a downturn in coal. I can get good operators that are laid off from the strip mines. When the coal market booms we suffer because we lose our operators. The coal industry has good benefits and pay, and they are very competitive, but the biggest difference is that coal isn’t seasonal like construction. Guys can work all year as long as the coal market remains good.

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change when opportunities present themselves, especially with the younger generation. I am 32. I bring a different mindset to the company and have integrated technology to increase efficiency. But it isn’t just me. I’ve got a whole generation of cousins that are working for the company and keeping us on the cutting edge. Sometimes we work as a general contractor and sometimes we are a subcontractor. I enjoy learning from bigger companies and seeing how they work and how our company could benefit from new ideas and technology, like GPS. Each job is a learning experience.

WISEMAN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC.
CHARLESTON, WV
ANDY WISEMAN, PRESIDENT

It is getting harder and harder to find qualified workers. Maybe this is because when I got into the industry the workforce was well established. It is increasingly hard to replace those who are retiring. The best staffed craft in this area are the iron workers. On the flip side, the cement finishers are the hardest to get. I think this is because of the work hours. It is a very skilled trade and difficult work, but in the best case scenario they only work steadily for six to seven months. I sat on their hiring board so I am familiar with the issues they are facing. It is easier to find someone to carry block than put it on the wall. More and more we are looking to those coming out of the military for our workforce needs. These people have a sense of discipline and respect for authority that those coming out of high school lack. Not many adults return to school to learn construction trades. We have a good lead in hiring ex-military.

CORNERSTONE INTERIORS, INC.
ELEANOR, WV
GLENN JEFFRIES

As an Interior contractor I have seen a steady decline in the trained and skilled employee. This decline has been happening for years, with a major a turn at the collapse of the economy beginning in 2007-2008. My company specializes in multiple interior finishes such as floor, wall, and ceiling construction. This type of construction requires skilled workers with the most current training and certifications to perform the daily tasks. You cannot bring someone fresh out of school or off the street and expect them to perform and be productive. A skilled worker is a must. For instance, my company currently has a project in the Clarksburg area, and to no fault of the locals in the area, we are seeing a shortage of skilled workers. I attribute this to the expansion in the Marcellus shale gas projects which has been good for business and the economy and has increased the overall amount of construction in the area and in the surrounding areas; but has resulted in a situation where there is not enough skilled labor to keep up with all projects.

The steady decline of skilled employees not only has fallen because of the recent collapse in the economy, but also because of the steady decline in the workforce. This is happening across industries, not just in construction. Employment in the construction industry bottomed in 2011. Here’s a look at the 10 states with the biggest percentage gains and declines in construction jobs since then. Numbers reflect seasonally adjusted jobs in residential and non-residential construction combined for March compared with the same month in 2011.

**Hottest and Coldest States for Construction Jobs**
March 2011 compared to March 2013

Employment in the construction industry bottomed in 2011. Here’s a look at the 10 states with the biggest percentage gains and declines in construction jobs since then. Numbers reflect seasonally adjusted jobs in residential and non-residential construction combined for March compared with the same month in 2011.

- States with sharpest increases in construction jobs:
  1. North Dakota (32.8 percent)
  2. Alaska (17.1 percent)
  3. Utah (16.3 percent)
  4. Wyoming (12.0 percent)
  5. California (11.8 percent)
  6. Arizona (11.0 percent)
  7. Louisiana (9.8 percent)
  8. Texas (9.8 percent)
  9. West Virginia (9.7 percent)
  10. Massachusetts (8.8 percent)

- States with the steepest declines:
  1. Illinois (-6.6 percent)
  2. Alabama (-5.2 percent)
  3. Rhode Island (-3.2 percent)
  4. North Carolina (-2.9 percent)
  5. New Mexico (-2.3 percent)
  6. Georgia (-2.0 percent)
  7. Montana (-1.8 percent)
  8. Mississippi (-1.6 percent)
  9. Arkansas (-1.5 percent)
  10. Nevada (-1.1 percent)

Source: U.S. Department of Labor, May 2013
but also due to a large number of craft employees who had pension benefits available to them and have been able to retire. This has resulted in more skilled craftsman leaving the workforce, which the construction industry has not recovered from.

Also, as a trade contractor, I have observed the number of graduating students at the high school level not choosing to explore the construction trade. The educational system we have now does not provide the students with a choice in "trying out" different options during their high school career. It must be either college or skilled trade, not both. The current system typically gives you one chance to decide your profession and not openly explore other possibilities.

I believe these are some of the reasons that the construction industry is seeing such a decline in skilled labor, not just in West Virginia but also on a national level. There are many local trade organizations that recognize this as an issue and are trying to implement changes to show the young workforce this is a desired trade. To help offset these issues, the skilled trade organizations are now providing improved training for upcoming workers. The process entails construction companies working with the local trade organizations by providing apprenticeship programs and journeyman training. These programs will teach the new construction employee the skills that are required for the preferred trade that he or she is trying to obtain. Additionally, other possibilities, such as policies that would discourage the use of “low wage, out of state workforce” and set standards above the “average,” would help encourage local residents to train for and make a career as a skilled craftsman.

The growing concern of not having skilled workers is a problem, but a good problem that can be corrected. There will always be a labor force available. The question we must ask ourselves is, “Will the future labor force consist of trained skilled workers or non-skilled workers?”

Our skilled labor force is the same age that we are and they are retiring on us. We are looking at retirement ourselves, so we are trying break in some younger supervisors. Right now, a majority of our employees are family members. It makes it rougher to manage because we are a little more lax on family than we would be on someone right off the street.

When we try to hire new guys, they don’t want to do the work like the older guys did. They are satisfied working three days a week and going home. They don’t want to put in long hours, or give 100 percent effort to what they are doing. We are union, so we don’t have trouble getting guys, but sometime we have to go through two or three before we find one that will work. We did hire a few guys from the hall this past week. One was 22 and one was 24. They worked out.

In our area, the labor force is being used up in the gas fields. It is difficult to find people. Welding, labor and operating engineers are in particularly short supply. As a company, we are hopeful and excited about the secondary development that the gas industry brings in, and we are bracing for that work. On the other hand, if we get a lot of work, we will be in trouble. According to all the information we receive, this will be the status quo through 2029. To maintain project schedules, we are bringing people in to work. There are people in our area on permit to work from Florida. It definitely impacts production and increases costs to the owners. Many labor unions have 50 and out, or 30 and out clauses. The industry is losing a lot of experienced people and no one is left to teach the young ones.

At Bilco we keep our crews working steadily. We are not constantly looking for people until someone retires, then
we have to start looking. It is a little more difficult than it used to be to find the right person for the job, but the steelworkers union is flexible and we have managed to find people. More of our workers are retiring lately, but it is just a function of the age of our crews. We have young guys, but the whole crew is getting older. The younger guys are being groomed to take over and advancing from within, particularly crane operators. We are lucky that we haven’t had many employees go the gas and oil industry, but I attribute that to our workload. We aren’t as affected by the weather as other sectors of the construction industry. In the bridge business, we are able to work year round and maintain a steady workflow.

Bilco Construction Company, Inc., South Charleston, credits the non-seasonal nature of their work as a contributing factor in their ability to find and keep skilled workers. Pictured is a pier cap concrete pour on the Dabney Bridge Project, part of the upgrade of Route 10 in Logan County.
West Virginia has a challenging year ahead. We are looking to economize and are watching every penny,” House of Delegates Finance Committee Vice Chair Delegate Doug Reynolds (D-Cabell) told over 200 CAWV members and guests attending the State Meeting. “Natural gas has not been the boon that many thought it would be.”

During the breakfast meeting, held March 20 in conjunction with Expo, Delegate Reynolds discussed the impact that the sequester will have on West Virginia, stating that the state will have to backfill and make up the difference in many programs.

“West Virginia has a lot of challenges,” he noted. “Twenty-six percent of our roads are in poor condition and 35 percent of West Virginia’s bridges are substandard. We are getting more pressure from the feds to finance and fund our infrastructure. We are trying to find a solution.”

Delegate Reynolds also talked about the challenges facing the education system, which was a hot topic throughout the legislative session.

“As CEO of C.J. Hughes Construction Company, Huntington, the lack of public support for infrastructure investment is very concerning,” he said. “In December, voters in Wayne County were presented with a school bond which, if approved, would have leveraged $20 million in School Building Authority funds. I wrote a letter to the local newspapers in support of the bond and imagined that it would pass. It failed 2-to-1. A month later, the same thing happened in Lincoln County. We have to look at leadership on these issues. We are obviously failing at communicating the need for investment and improvement.”

Delegate Reynolds told members that it was going to take a lot of teamwork to find solutions to the many financial issues West Virginia is facing.

“We are fortunate that our state is still in the black,” said Senator Roman Prezioso, (D-Marion), chair of the Senate Finance Committee. “The national economic situation has finally caught up to us in West Virginia. This fiscal year, we are behind where we need to be. We are facing a big challenge with health care funding. The federal government lowered the amount West Virginia receives in reimbursement funds, leaving us with a higher cost and an interest gap. Also, Medicaid is going to be problematic in five to six years as we will have to pay 10 percent and deal with a second system.”

Senator Prezioso told members about the steps that Governor Earl Ray Tomblin and the Legislature are taking to prepare the state’s budget.

“Governor Tomblin asked nearly every state agency to cut 7.5 percent of their budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year,” he said. “We have combed every unappropriated dollar to balance the budget.”

The Senate Finance chairman discussed both the Governor’s education bill and racing issues which are hot topics in the Legislature, before both speakers joined together and accepted questions from the audience. By and large, the group asked about the Governor’s Blue Ribbon Highway Commission and future prospects for highway funding.

“We are hopeful that highway funding will be taken up in a special session,” said Sen. Prezioso. “During the 60-day session everyone wants a piece of the pie. Special sessions are much more focused. Road funding is a major issue that will require focus and political determination.”

Senator Prezioso shared with members that he voted to increase the gas tax in 1989 and later saw a bumper sticker admonishing him for the decision.

“We do not have the dollars to depend on severance taxes,” the Senator said. “If we want better roads, we will have to pay for them.”

Delegate Reynolds noted that the number one call he receives is with regard to road conditions, and “the
second thing they say is don’t increase the gas tax. The other side of the road funding debate already has their talking points. It is going to take action and an active educational effort to raise revenue for highways.”

Senator Prezioso applauded the association and its members’ for their efforts to support students in West Virginia. The 2013 Scholarship recipient, Brandon Bartlett, hailed from the Senator’s alma mater, Fairmont State University.

“The CAWV scholarship represents what West Virginia is all about: nurturing students,” he said. “Our students deserve the best education system so that they can compete worldwide.”

CAWV Scholarship Committee Chairman Gene Thompson introduced the group to Bartlett, who was selected as the winner from a field of nearly 30 applicants. The junior civil engineering student accepted the top award and thanked members’ for their generosity.

“It was a tremendous honor and privilege to be selected for an interview, much less an award,” Bartlett said. “Thank you for selecting me as the winner of this scholarship. Your careful consideration empowers me to pursue my ultimate goals as I progress through my education.”

(For more on Bartlett and this year’s other scholarship winners, see the story on page 32.)

Following his comments, West Virginia Department of Transportation Secretary Paul A. Mattox Jr. joined CAWV President Lee Snyder to present the concrete awards. The program recognizes and rewards superior workmanship and performance, and stimulates competition. The award has two categories: Structural and Flatwork.

“The 2012 Concrete Quality Excellence Award: Flatwork, Greater Than $20 Million, goes to Hi-Way Paving, Inc., Hillard, Ohio for their Corridor H project from Knobly Road to 1.5 miles west of Route 93 in Grant County,” Snyder announced. “This project was located in an extremely isolated, mountainous area near Scherr. There was very little, if any, straight or flat portions of this roadway. It was either uphill paving or downhill of new, stringless construction of seven miles of 4-lane divided highway.”

The $21.3 million project contained 98,300 cubic yards of Portland Cement concrete from Hi-Way Paving’s batch plant, 314,600 square yards of 10 inch thick concrete paving, 38,000 cubic yards of open graded free draining base and 25,800 tons of Portland Cement. The project was bid June 1, 2011 with an original completion date of August 15, 2013. All four lanes of highway were opened to traffic November 10, 2012, almost nine months ahead of schedule. CAWV suppliers on the project included Essroc, Fairfax Materials, and C&R Materials.

“The 2013 Concrete Quality Excellence Award: Flatwork Less than $20 Million, goes to Golden Triangle Construction Company, Imperial, PA, for their Charles Town Route 9 Bypass in Jefferson County,” Snyder said. “This project was located in an extremely isolated, mountainous area near Scherr. There was very little, if any, straight or flat portions of this roadway. It was either uphill paving or downhill of new, stringless construction of seven miles of 4-lane divided highway.”

Mike Metz, Kokosing Construction Company, Inc., South Charleston, accepted the 2012 Concrete Quality Excellence Award: Structural for the Keyser, WV to McCoole, MD Bridge from Secretary Mattox.

The 2013 Concrete Quality Excellence Award: Flatwork was accepted by Wayne Waugh and Mike Durst, Hi-Way Paving, Inc., Hillard, Ohio, for the Corridor H project from Knobly Road to 1.5 miles west of Route 93 in Grant County. The award was presented by WV Department of Transportation Secretary Paul A. Mattox, Jr.
included approximately three miles of four lane of new concrete pavement with shoulders. The project used an accelerated schedule of five, 10-hour shifts to six, 10-hours shifts in order to keep schedule.

The project also used stringless technology and the subbase and the cement treated permeable base were placed using an ABG Hi-Density Paver. This provided 90-95 percent compaction prior to placing a smooth drum roller to compact the material. The roll down to achieve the proper compaction was minimized, causing the grade to be much more accurate. The notice to proceed was given February 4, 2012. The September 30 completion date was moved to November 14 due to a weather delay from Hurricane Sandy. CAWV material suppliers include Aggregate Industries and Essroc.

President Snyder announced that Kokosing Construction Company, South Charleston, was selected as the 2012 Concrete Quality Excellence Award: Structural for the Keyser, WV to McCool, MD Bridge.

“The project presented many difficulties,” Snyder explained. “The existing bridge was the main travel path between West Virginia and Maryland so the new bridge had to be constructed while maintaining traffic on the old structure.”

The small footprint of the project, the closeness of the new structure to the old structure and the presence of the Potomac River made erecting the new large structural steel girders and removing the existing structural girders a difficult task that required much pre-planning. Innovative construction methods involved slip-forming concrete parapets and sidewalks on the new bridge deck. Slip-forming parapets may not be new but these parapets have a stacked-stone pattern on the outside face. Kokosing imprinted the pattern into the parapets using a roller pattern and their normal slip-forming machine. Demolishing the old bridge and final project completion is expected in June.

Following the concrete awards, CAWV Safety Committee Chairman Scott Coleman joined with OSHA Compliance Assistance Specialist Rich Jeffrey to present the annual Safety Awards. (See the related story for full details on the safety awards.)

President Snyder thanked all the guests attending this year’s meeting.

“We are pleased representatives of state and federal contracting agencies could attend our meeting. Many of these representatives are responsible for the design, bidding and award of over $1 billion worth of public works contracts annually,” remarked the president. “We greatly appreciate the work they do day-in and day-out to build and maintain West Virginia’s infrastructure of highways, bridges, schools, water and sewer systems.”

By Lindsay Stephens
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Expo’s annual show is one part education, one part technology and two parts people. The 2013 show, held March 20-21, joined owners, architects, surveyors, engineers and contractors together from throughout the region to experience the best of what the construction industry has to offer.

A record 340 companies displayed at the show. Manufacturers, distributors, architects, engineers, law and accounting firms, technology providers, safety and health specialists, equipment dealers, conference destinations and 59 Honor Exhibitors supported the show.

Education topics ranged from program updates provided by government agencies such as the WV Division of Highways and the WV Infrastructure and Jobs Development Council, project analyses, rule updates and safety refreshers. Exhibitors displayed their wares and services at over 485 booths.

The 2013 show brought over 5,100 qualified attendees from 29 states together at the Charleston Civic Center. The Contractors Association of West Virginia, American Institute of Architects - WV, WV Society of Professional Engineers, the WV Utility Contractors Association, with the support of 24 co-sponsors, presented the 34nd annual show.

New this year, show hours on Thursday were adjusted in order to provide attendees with “Business over Breakfast.”

Expo provides attendees with increased knowledge about the construction industry and priceless industry contacts.

The 2014 show will be held March 26-27 at the Charleston Civic Center. For full details, sponsorship opportunities and exhibitor information, visit Expo online at www.wvexpo.com.

The 2013 WV Equipment and Design Exposition featured a record of 340 booths in multiple areas including the Civic Center Coliseum, which displayed all the heavy equipment.

Expo includes the entire construction and design industries, and features many equipment companies.

Exhibitors, such as Trinity Rebar, put a great deal of time into their displays.

The American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter from Fairmont State University displayed their concrete canoe.
Precision Pump and Valve Service included a little fun in their booth.

Exhibitors bring their top-of-the-line equipment to display at the show.

Attendees are presented a unique opportunity to network while viewing a variety of construction equipment.

A line tapping contest is held during the two-day show.

The 2013 WV Equipment and Design Exposition offered attendees unparalleled educational opportunities.

In addition to construction, design and equipment firms, personal protective equipment was available for attendees to peruse.

Pyle Equipment Auctions exhibited at the 2013 Expo, which included 485 booths.

C.I. Thornburg Company demonstrated their equipment capabilities.

Exhibitors bring their top-of-the-line equipment to display at the show.

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Precision Pump and Valve Service included a little fun in their booth.

Expo began in 1979 as a water and wastewater show. It has grown to include the entire construction and design industries.

Alpha Associates was one 340 companies who exhibited at the show.

McCloy Construction displayed their equipment while discussing their capabilities with attendees.

The annual show provided an opportunity for many new business relationships.
During this year’s CAWV State Meeting, the Safety Committee presented the 2012 Safety Awards to members who have exhibited excellence in safety performance and promotion in the workplace. Scores are based on a company’s documented safety policies and procedures, commitment and approach to safety and health in the workplace and recorded statistical data for the year. Special marks are given to those companies who offer high quality safety training and demand active employee involvement in their safety process.

Finalists are chosen from the contractor and associate members who achieve an excellent performance rating. Awards were presented to only those members that met or exceeded the program criteria. Safety Committee Chairman Scott Coleman, IVS Hydro, Waverly, oversaw the selection process. He joined Rich Jeffrey, OSHA compliance assistance specialist, to present each recipient’s award. Winners select their awards from an array of promotional products.
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Rudd Equipment Company
The Contractors Association of West Virginia (CAWV) Scholarship Foundation distributed $13,000 this year to West Virginia college students pursuing an education and career in construction or engineering. Recipients were selected on the basis of their academic performance, extracurricular activities, work experience, financial need and interest in a construction industry career. Eligible schools include West Virginia University, West Virginia University Institute of Technology, Marshall University, Fairmont State University and Bluefield State College.

Brandon Bartlett, a civil engineering student at Fairmont State University, is the recipient of the association’s $5,000 scholarship award for 2013. Bartlett is president of the university’s American Society of Civil Engineers student chapter, captain of the concrete canoe team, and has worked with CAWV member firm Bear Contracting, LLC, Bridgeport.

“My experience in the construction industry has given me confidence and empowered me to meet my goals,” Bartlett said. “The hard work and hands-on knowledge I have gained has equipped me with the skills I need to succeed. I am very grateful to the CAWV Scholarship Foundation and association members for this scholarship.”

Bartlett expressed his thanks to his parents, professors and industry mentors during the CAWV’s State Meeting held March 20 during Expo.

“This scholarship is a blessing,” Bartlett said. “I had calculated exactly when my money for school was going to run out. This scholarship, and the experience I received working for Bear Contracting, LLC has empowered me to continue on this pathway. It is my sincerest desire to stay in West Virginia after I graduate, and I’m looking forward to working in construction during the upcoming summer.”

In addition to Bartlett, the Foundation presented five other scholarships totaling $8,000. Students receiving scholarship awards were: Allison Arnold, Lara Smith and Brandon LeRoy from West Virginia University; Cameron Mallory from Marshall University; and Jacob Harper from WVU-IT.

Bartlett may be familiar, as he won a smaller award in 2012, an experience he credits with encouraging him to pursue another level of education in construction.

“I spent most of my summer working as an assistant project manager on a sanitary sewer project,” Bartlett said. “The large-scale development was in need of someone who could help the project manager with organization, documentation and inventory. My summer experience with Bear Contracting has fortified my knowledge and perception of the construction industry,” Bartlett said. “I now feel more adept and prepared about what to expect from a career in the construction industry. It is a tremendous honor to stand here today and accept this award.”

By Lindsay Stephens
Alison Arnold  
West Virginia University  
Alison is a junior studying Civil Engineering at WVU along with degrees in art and history. She is a life-long resident of Morgantown and is working to cover her college expenses without assistance from her parents. She is exploring whether to focus on civil or structural engineering and hopes to remain in West Virginia following graduation. She is an avid athlete and devotes much of her time to the university’s rowing team.

Brandon LeRoy  
West Virginia University  
Brandon is a sophomore in WVU’s Civil Engineering program. He has spent the last two summers working with the WV Division of Highways performing surveying and design work. Brandon is highly involved with academic clubs, such as Key Club, Student Council, National Honor Society and ASCE student chapter. He has several research projects with the university and is excited to work in the construction industry in West Virginia.

Lara Smith  
West Virginia University  
Lara is a junior studying Civil Engineering at WVU. She has experience working with the Morgantown Utility Board and March-Westin Company. She is passionate about construction and continues to work full time as an intern while in school, a pursuit she is undertaking in order to allow her to graduate with a blend of practical and academic experience.
Bowling, Kings honored by Buckskin Council
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA – The Boy Scouts of America Buckskin Council recognized Art and Virginia King, and Sam Bowling (posthumously) with their Good Scouter Award during the 2013 Leadership Luncheon. The Good Scouter Award recognizes individuals who exemplify the spirit of the Scout Oath and Law by helping others and doing their best at all times. This prestigious award honors those whose personal and public contributions enhance the community and the world in which we live. Art and Virginia King were chosen by the council to receive the award in recognition of their significant public service leadership. Both have given of their time, talents and energy to many good causes including the Contractors Association of West Virginia, Boy Scouts of America, Clay Center and Marshall University, to name a few. Together, they operate Kanawha Stone Company, which began in 1973 as a stone quarry and has grown into a flourishing heavy/highway construction company.

Sam Bowling, who passed in April 2012, was also honored for his significant donation of time and talents to a variety of organizations including the Contractors Association of West Virginia, WV Chamber of Commerce, CAMC Foundation and Clay Center. He was a talented businessman who owned Dougherty Company, Charleston.

Walker Machinery receives export award
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - Walker Machinery Company, Belle, was among the businesses awarded the Governor’s Commendation for International Market Entry by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin, the West Virginia Export Council and the West Virginia Development Office. This award honors companies that have successfully exported to a new country in the past year. Walker was recognized for doing business with Saudi Arabia, South Africa, and Germany. In 2012, West Virginia’s exports reached a record high of $11.3 billion. The Governor’s Award is a framed piece of currency from each new country to which the recipient began exporting in 2012.

Kalkreuth earns awards
WHEELING, WEST VIRGINIA - Firestone Building Products Company, LLC, has presented Kalkreuth Roofing & Sheet Metal, Inc., Wheeling, with the 2013 Master Contractor award, a longstanding commercial roofing quality recognition award. The local Wheeling firm is one of 260 to earn this distinction for roofing system excellence from an established network of more than 3,000 Firestone Red Shield licensed contractors. In addition, Kalkreuth is one of only 30 to receive the Inner Circle of Quality Award and President’s Club Award, achieving three of the roofing industry’s most highly regarded achievements.

The Master Contractor Program recognizes Firestone-licensed roofing firms throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico for achieving its high quality standards.

Peerless Block announces new president
ST. ALBANS, WEST VIRGINIA – Peerless Block and Brick Company has hired Steve Platz as company president. Platz joins the over 100-year-old company from Triana Energy, LLC, where he served as vice president of finance. He has 25 years of experience in finance and private equity and was a co-founder and former chief financial officer at Vested Health LLC. Peerless provides a variety of block, brick, stone and hardscape materials to residential, commercial construction and mining customers.
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Alsop joins Bowles Rice
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA – Rob Alsop, who served as Governor Earl Ray Tomblin’s chief of staff for the past two and a half years, has joined Bowles Rice, LLP. Alsop specializes in legal advocacy, government relations and public policy analysis. He joins the firm’s Commercial and Financial Practice Group and the Government Relation’s Team.

Alsop previously worked as revenue secretary during former Governor Joe Manchin’s administration. He was also a lawyer with Jackson Kelly and served as chief of staff to former-Senator Carte Goodwin, who briefly held the position following the death of longtime Senator Robert C. Byrd.

“Rob will become a strategic advisor to many of our key clients, thanks to his experience, knowledge and outstanding judgment,” said Tom Heywood, managing partner at Bowles Rice. “He is excellent at identifying important issues and resolving conflicts.”

Matheny Motors opens Kenova dealership
PARKERSBURG, WEST VIRGINIA – Matheny Motors has opened a new dealership in Kenova, expanding into the West Virginia – Ohio – Kentucky tri-state area. Last December, Matheny acquired the assets of McCoy Freightliner. The dealership is expanding beyond Freightliner trucks into Thomas Built school buses, Hino trucks, Landall trailers and Miller brand towing equipment. Matheny retained all 31 people who had worked for McCoy and hired several more. As part of the opening ceremony, the Matheny Freightliner Truck Center held a tow show for people who own or operate tow trucks. Matheny Motors is based in Parkersburg and has offices and dealerships in Nitro, and Marietta, Ohio, along with a towing and recovery operation in Woodbridge, Virginia.

Chapman Technical Group recognized for excellence in design
ST. ALBANS, WEST VIRGINIA – The West Virginia Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects has recognized two Chapman Technical Group projects. The Upper Big Branch Miners Memorial received an Honor Award for design excellence, and the Nuttalburg Mining Complex, part of the New River National River, received a Merit Award.

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Virginia presented the firm with two Gold Awards for Engineering Excellence. One was for the Shepherdstown wastewater treatment systems improvements project. The other was for the Appalachian Regional Airport in Mingo County.

Justice center awarded LEED certification
CHARLESTON, WEST VIRGINIA - ZMM Architects and Engineers announced the Wood County Justice Center has achieved the long-awaited Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification.

LEED certification levels were developed by the U.S. Green Building Council, a Washington, D.C.-based, nonprofit coalition of building industry leaders. The justice center houses the law enforcement division of the Wood County Sheriff’s Office, magistrate court and holding center. The 15-year-old, 32,000-square-foot, single-story former Public Debt office building was renovated into the center. The building was purchased by the Wood County Commission with the stated purpose of bringing under one roof three government functions that had outgrown their separate buildings.

“In addition to providing improvements to the civic presence and security of the building, the new justice center achieved the LEED-certified designation for implementing practical and measurable strategies and solutions aimed at achieving high performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection and indoor environmental quality,” said Adam Krason, ZMM Architects and Engineers. “The decision by the commission to renovate/repurpose an existing office building was the most sustainable decision. It gave use to a previously developed structure, and diverted a significant amount of waste from landfills. The existing heating, ventilation, air-conditioning system was removed and replaced with a more energy efficient system and new, energy efficient lighting was installed with automatic controls.”

Meeks promoted to Triad’s COO
ST. ALBANS, WEST VIRGINIA – John M. Meeks, PG, LRS, has been promoted to chief operations officer for Triad Engineering, Inc., St. Albans. Meeks, who has been with Triad for 23 years, has served as branch manager at the St. Albans location since 2001. Triad Engineering is a regional firm with seven locations in five states.

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