



## NEWS RELEASE

### **AGC of Michigan Names 2021 Apprentices of the Year**

*Young talent from across the state recognized for work to advance construction, build Michigan*

**Lansing, Michigan, March 1, 2021** – The Associated General Contractors (AGC) of Michigan awarded six construction skilled trades apprentices and their mentors with the Apprentice of the Year Awards and Outstanding Construction Mentor Awards, respectively, and two contractors with the Cornerstone Award for Construction Training Excellence during the association’s virtual Annual Meeting Friday, February 26, 2021.

“AGC of Michigan is proud to recognize apprentices and contractors who embody our values of skill, integrity and responsibility,” said Damian P. Hill, president of the AGC of Michigan. “Our members are committed to comprehensive, innovative and safe training for apprentices to set them up for long-term success. Skilled trades workers are the key to continuing to build Michigan’s construction industry today and in the future.”

Recipients of the Apprentice of the Year Awards must demonstrate superior achievement in attendance and punctuality; outstanding craft mastery and productivity; leadership skills and teamwork; safety awareness; spirit of competitiveness; and commitment to their craft, employer and the community.

For a sixth year, Outstanding Construction Mentors were also recognized at the Annual Meeting. Each top apprentice selected a person in their industry who made a significant impact on their career path and development. When considering who they would name as their ‘top mentor’ apprentices took into consideration the following:

- Provided quality leadership and role modeling by his/her behavior.
- Shared techniques on how to improve skills and/or build efficiency and productivity.
- Offered encouragement and support needed it to get through a troublesome situation – personal or on the job related.
- Required accountability of their work (i.e. productivity, safety, punctuality, attendance) that have become a life skill or saved their job.
- Prepared and made available lessons and appropriate tools to accomplish tasks required for job and/or helped to perfect their craft skills.
- Went the extra step to make the apprentice feel a part of the team or that provided a valuable life skill.

Apprentice of the Year and Outstanding Construction Mentors Awards were given to awardees in the following industries:

- Bricklayer: Gabe Bush (Bracy & Jahr, Quincy)
  - Mentor: Joe Rydecki (Bracy & Jahr)
- Carpenter: Aurelia Yazzie (Barton Malow, Southfield)
  - Mentor: Tom Sylvester (Nelson Mill Co.)
- Iron Worker: Kyle Seder (Monarch Welding & Engineering, Muskegon)
  - Mentor: Jim Byram (Monarch Welding & Engineering)
- Operating Engineer: Cole Loffer (Capital City Group, Lansing)
  - Mentor: John Haberkorn (OE Local 324 Training Center)
- Construction Laborer: Linda VanDike (Clark Contracting Services, Auburn Hills)
  - Mentor: Matt Hutchinson (Clark Contracting Services)

Apprentice award recipients also receive a \$1,000 check co-sponsored by the AGC of Michigan's Workforce Development Committee, Michigan Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund, Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers (BAC) Local 2, Michigan Laborers Training & Apprenticeship Institute, Ironworkers Local 25 Training Center and Operating Engineers 324 Apprenticeship & Training Fund.

The Cornerstone Awards for Training Excellence were given to Clark Construction Company, Lansing and Christman Constructors, Lansing. This prestigious award recognizes and honors contractor contributions in advancing the quality of their skilled workforce.

## **TAGS**

Michigan, construction, apprenticeship, mentor, skilled trades

## **MEDIA CONTACT**

Cathy Mayhew, Director, Communications  
[cmyhew@agcmichigan.org](mailto:cmyhew@agcmichigan.org), 517.908.8052

## **PHOTOS**

Can be accessed at <https://www.agcmichigan.org/apprentice-of-the-year.html>

## **ABOUT AGC MICHIGAN**

*The AGC of Michigan is a full service construction trade association providing safety, education and training, legislative & regulatory advocacy, human resources, labor relations options, construction information, and affinity programs. AGC members are dedicated to skill, integrity and responsibility. For more information, visit [www.agcmichigan.org](http://www.agcmichigan.org).*