



ABC Construction Project Owners Summit

Where contractors and project owners collaborate to
improve the planning and delivery of construction projects.

Hotel Crescent Court, Dallas | Sept. 29-Oct. 1, 2025

summit.abc.org



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Our People ARE OUR POWER.

Welcome to the ABC Construction Project Owners Summit!



On behalf of ABC and the Summit Steering Committee, it is my great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 ABC Construction Project Owners Summit here in Dallas. We are thrilled to gather industry leaders, innovators and decision-makers for this event dedicated to connection, collaboration and forward-looking discussion.

This year's program is packed with sessions designed to both challenge and inspire. From cyberthreat insights to protect the entire project team to exploring how artificial intelligence, robotics and virtual design are used on real-world jobsites, we are diving into the issues and opportunities shaping our industry today and in the years to come. We'll also hear from experts on preconstruction delays based on real team research, gain practicable takeaways from two stand-out project teams and tackle one of our most pressing challenges: to find innovative solutions for the nation's workforce shortage crisis.

And as always, you won't want to miss the economic update with ABC Chief Economist Anirban Basu or the timely policy insights from ABC Vice President of Government Affairs Kristen Swearingen as the legislative landscape becomes harder to navigate. These sessions ensure you'll leave not only with fresh ideas, but also with actionable strategies to strengthen your organization's projects and partnerships.

I would like to extend my gratitude to our Steering Committee members for their dedication and leadership in shaping this year's summit as well as the committed sponsors for supporting this enriching experience for all.

Thank you for joining us. Together, let's make the 2025 ABC CPO Summit our most engaging and productive event yet.

With appreciation and excitement,

Sincerely,

Kevin Sell, Senior Manager, Corporate Development
Kwest Group
ABC Construction Project Owners Summit Chair



ABC Construction Project Owners Summit Chair

Kevin Sell, *Kwest Group*

Steering Committee

Saied Alavi, *MAREK*

Michael Barker, *Hensel Phelps*

Pam Brink, *MD Anderson Cancer Center*

John Hinson, *MAREK*

Brandon Jordan, *Kwest Group*

Ed Luckenbach, *Universal Industrial Gases*

Joe Powell, *University Research Institute*

Tony Rader, *National Roofing Partners*

Todd Stevens, *MetroPower*

Barbara Wagner, *Clark Construction*

Cassidy Welch, *BASF Corp.*

WI-FI INFO

Network: Hotel Crescent Court Meetings

Passcode: ABCSummit25

Please feel free to contact ABC staff any time.

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Emergency Procedures

In the event of severe weather, meet in the hotel fitness center. In the event of a fire, meet at the reflection pond between the 500 buildings—Sixty Vines and Capital Grill. If there is an active shooter, head to the north side of Stanley Korshak, where Maple Avenue and Cedar Springs Road meet.

The nearest medical center is Baylor Scott & White Medical Center—Uptown, located at 2727 Lemmon Ave. East. Learn more at bayloruptown.com.

The nearest pharmacy is CVS Pharmacy, located at 2501 N. Field St.



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Sessions

Monday, Sept. 29

5-6 p.m.

Meet and Greet *Garden Courtyard*

6 p.m.

Dinner on Your Own

Tuesday, Sept. 30

8 a.m.

Registration Opens (*coffee and light fare available*)
Crescent Foyer

8:30-9:30 a.m.

Protect the Entire Project Team: Keep Up With the Latest Cyberthreats *Crescent Ballroom*

Presenter: Nick Espinosa, *Security Fanatics*

In today's digital landscape, the construction industry is more connected than ever, which makes it a prime target for cybercriminals. From ransomware attacks on project management software to phishing scams targeting field personnel, cybersecurity threats are evolving, and your workforce needs to be prepared. Learn practical strategies to protect your company's data, secure your networks and educate your team on cyber best practices to keep them safe—whether they are on site or in the office.

9:45-10:45 a.m.

New Federal Projects Collaboration Study *Crescent Ballroom*

Moderator: Joe Powell, *University Research Institute*

Panelists: Pam Brink, *MD Anderson Cancer Center*; Robert R. Feldbauer, *Children's Health*

A new federal projects collaboration study has shown that human behavior determines project outcomes and collaboration is now manageable. Hear more about the study's findings, including how critical problem-solving and effective judgment thinking are statistically detectable, and current approaches that are working.

11 a.m.-12 p.m.

Jobsite of the Future: AI, Robotics, Virtual Design and More
Crescent Ballroom

Moderator: Matt Abeles, *ABC National*

Panelists: Saied Alavi, *MAREK*; Josh Kanner, *Oracle*; Muthu Monahar, *Hilti*; Thai Nguyen, *Hensel Phelps*

The construction industry is currently experiencing the beginning of the next industrial revolution through artificial intelligence, robotics, virtual design and more breakthrough technologies. Listen to an intelligent discussion about the impact of these innovations on the design and construction of future projects and how you can take advantage to stay ahead of the competition.

12-12:30 p.m.

Lunch *Crescent Ballroom/Foyer*

12:45-2:15 p.m.

The Good, The Bad and The Triumph: Lessons From Real Case Studies *Crescent Ballroom*

Moderator: Cassidy Welch, *BASF Corp.*

George Bush Intercontinental Airport Terminal B Transformation (Houston)

Project Team: Paul Allen, *Basden Steel*; David Deem, *Deem Structural*; Mike Mendoza, *United Airlines*; Dominick Trupia, *United Airlines*; Zack Rajter, *Clark Construction*

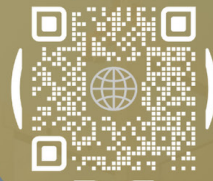
Northwest Phase II Extension Light Rail Transit (Phoenix)

Project Team: Nik Hunter, *Kiewit*; Michael Sotak, *Valley Metro*; Vanessa Quinto, *Jacobs Engineering*

Why spend time and money learning the hard way when you can learn from other industry leaders' experiences? Hear owners and contractors share their real-life experiences throughout the project lifecycle so you can avoid or fix the same potentially costly challenges.



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Sessions

Tuesday, Sept. 30 (continued)

2:30-3:30 p.m.

Preconstruction Delays: What To Know and How To Remedy Them *Crescent Ballroom*

Moderator: Kevin Sell, Kwest Group

Panelists: Jon Hayes, Nucor; Ed Luckenbach, Universal Industrial Gases; Fred Marsh, Duke Energy; Kenneth Sullivan, Ph.D., Simplar Research Foundation and Arizona State University

While it is common for project owners to create a list of potential project delays, many do not look at what occurs before the official start of construction. Recent research on a diverse array of owners indicates that there should be more focus on preconstruction. Hear about delay experiences and types and how owners are working with contractors to find effective remedies through research and collaboration.

3:45-5:15 p.m.

Bridging the Gap: Innovative Solutions for the Construction Workforce *Crescent Ballroom*

Moderator: Brandon Jordan, Kwest Group

Owner Panel Group: Pam Brink, MD Anderson Cancer Center; Clarence Evenson, Solenis

Contractor Panel Group: John Barker, KPost Co.; Mike Holland, MAREK; Ryan Odendahl, Kwest Group

Industry Panel Group: Brian Lines, Ph.D., Simplar Research Foundation and University of Kansas; Greg Sizemore, ABC National; Jennifer Wilkerson, NCCER

This interactive summit session will delve into the critical workforce challenges facing the construction industry today,

exploring innovative strategies for attraction, retention and development of a skilled and loyal workforce. Attendees will engage with industry leaders through three focused, 30-minute panel discussions—including project owners, researchers and contractors—gaining practical insights and actionable takeaways to strengthen contractors' talent pipelines and mitigate project owners' labor risks.

6:15 p.m.

General Reception *Crescent Club*

7:15 p.m.

Dinner *Crescent Club*

Sponsored by



9 p.m.

Post-Event Reception *Crescent Club*

Wednesday, Oct. 1

7-8 a.m.

Breakfast *Crescent Ballroom/Foyer*

8-8:30 a.m.

Navigating the Legislative Landscape: Essential Updates for Construction Professionals *Crescent Ballroom*

Speaker: Kristen Swearingen, ABC National

Learn how existing and upcoming legislation could affect your construction business in 2025 and beyond. This session will provide a comprehensive overview of recent and proposed laws relevant to the construction industry.

8:30-9:45 a.m.

Economic Update: Monetary Masala *Crescent Ballroom*

Speaker: Anirban Basu, ABC Chief Economist

Is the U.S. economy headed for recession, or can America weather emerging trade wars, associated cost increases and uncertainty? ABC's chief economist focuses on national and regional economic performance, with an eye toward identifying emerging risks to what has been the world's most envied economy. Among the variables are interest rates, employment growth, real estate valuations and a variety of leading economic indicators.

Work With ABC Members

Celebrating its 75th anniversary in 2025, Associated Builders and Contractors is a national construction industry trade association established in 1950 with 67 chapters and more than 23,000 members. Founded on the merit shop philosophy, ABC helps members develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. abc.org

ABC Members Are Committed to Operational Excellence

Measure, Strengthen and Build Your Health and Safety Culture



ABC's STEP® Health and Safety Management System provides contractors and suppliers with a robust, no-cost framework for measuring health and safety data and benchmarking with peers in the industry to measure, strengthen and build their health and safety culture. With key components proven to be effective at improving health and safety performance, participants identify real opportunities for scalable growth in their safety programs to lower their total recordable incident rates. abc.org/step

Build With an Accredited Quality Contractor



The AQC credential benchmarks construction firms that demonstrate their commitment to corporate responsibility in quality, health and safety, craft and management education, talent management and community relations. Build with the best. abc.org/aqc

Connect With an ABC Top Performer



Companies honored as ABC Top Performers have achieved high marks in health, safety and project excellence and are ranked by work hours. The 2025 edition features the top 250 contractors; top trade, specialty and general contractors; and top contractors by market; all of which have earned the elite Accredited Quality Contractor credential and STEP Gold or higher. abc.org/topperformers

ABC Project Management Institute



The ABC Project Management Institute is a premier education and professional development opportunity for future project leaders. Developed by experienced contractors and Kirk Alter, a nationally recognized subject matter expert with decades of project management experience, this course is designed specifically to meet the needs of today's contractors. abc.org/pmi

Excellence in Construction® Awards



ABC's National Excellence in Construction® Awards recognize the industry's most innovative and high-quality construction projects across the nation, as well as firms that have demonstrated industry-leading health and safety excellence and the Contractor of the Year. Winning contractor firms are joined at an annual black-tie awards gala by their project team—owners, architects and engineers—to celebrate these prestigious achievements. abc.org/eic

ABC Tech Marketplace



ABC's Tech Marketplace partners provide construction technology and innovative digital solutions for ABC contractor members to advance and grow their technology strategies, offerings and abilities. These companies cover the areas of focus identified for contractor's needs and provide exclusive discounts for members. abc.org/techmarketplace

Work With ABC Members

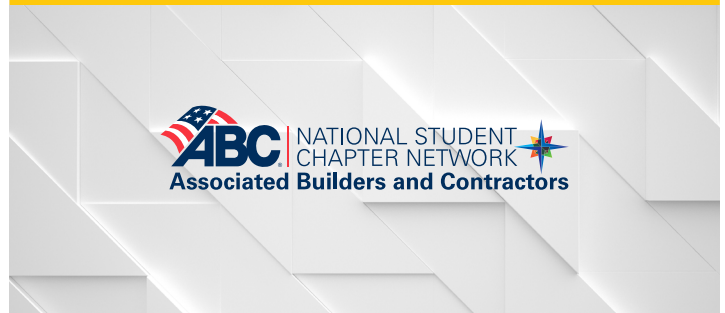
ABC Members Are Committed To Building the Workforce of the Future

Construction Management Competition



The ABC Construction Management Competition is a hallmark competition that promotes careers in construction management. The competition is designed to challenge construction knowledge, organization, time management and presentation skills, giving the nation's top construction management students a glimpse into the real world of construction and an opportunity to showcase their talents. abc.org/cmc

National Student Chapter Network



The ABC National Student Chapter Network connects local ABC chapters to colleges and universities with construction-related degree programs, with the ultimate goal of building the construction management pipeline and mentoring future leaders of the construction industry. abc.org/studentchapter

National Craft Championships



ABC's annual National Craft Championships celebrate lifelong learning in the merit shop construction industry. Craft trainees from chapter and member education programs across the country compete for national recognition in more than a dozen crafts in an intense two-day competition during ABC's convention. abc.org/ncc

Construction Workforce Awards



Each year, ABC presents the Craft Instructor of the Year, Craft Professional of the Year and Young Professional of the Year and—new in 2026—the Health and Safety Professional of the Year. These individuals play critical roles in shaping the future of the construction industry by highlighting construction as a meaningful lifelong career, emphasizing safe work practices and expanding education opportunities. abc.org/cwa

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Risk starts even before you do

Before you break ground, there are risks that can threaten the success of your project ranging from contractual and surety needs to environmental exposures and site security. And once construction begins, even more risks arise.

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Work With ABC Members

ABC Members Are Committed To Leading the Industry

Construction Executive Magazine

**CONSTRUCTION
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ABC's award-winning magazine, Construction Executive, is the leading source for news, market developments and business issues affecting the construction industry. Designed to help readers run more profitable and productive businesses, each issue reaches more than 50,000 contractors and construction-related business owners. constructionexec.com

The Voice of the Merit Shop

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AND PURPOSE,
UNITED.**



For 75 years, ABC has been the leading voice for the merit shop philosophy in construction, defending the principles of fair and open competition. ABC encourages its members to get involved with legislative, political and regulatory proposals that affect the construction industry and provides resources for members to better understand, support and voice opinions on policy. ABC's Action app is an advanced advocacy tool that enables members to become a vital part of ABC's grassroots advocacy efforts and allows members to make their voice heard. abc.org/action

ABC Business Partners



ABC members receive special pricing and member-exclusive discounts on products and services from an extensive network of ABC business partners. Discounts may apply to both employers and employees. abc.org/discounts

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ABC's strategic partners are hand-selected to help our members win and deliver work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. Each of ABC's eight strategic partners contributes unique insights and valuable expertise on a variety of subjects and issues that affect the industry. abc.org/strategicpartners



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Meet the Speakers



Matthew Abeles is ABC vice president of construction technology and innovation. In this role, Abeles spearheads efforts to integrate construction technology

and innovation into all aspects of ABC's strategic initiatives, included but not limited to total human health, industry-leading safety and workforce development. His team provides ABC members with the annual Tech Report, Tech Marketplace and Tech Alliance.



Saied Alavi has over 43 years of experience in all aspects of interior construction at MAREK. He currently leads MAREK's innovation, prefabrication and offsite manufacturing.



Paul Allen has been with Basden Steel Corp. since 2017 as a project executive. With more than 45 years in the steel and construction industry, he has overseen teams

estimating structural steel for everything from multibillion-dollar nuclear facilities to football stadiums. Currently, Allen leads a team of contract administrators, project managers and estimators managing projects across the United States, including Hawaii and Guam.



John Barker is the senior vice president of business administration at KPost Co. in Dallas, overseeing human resources, employee benefits, information technology, banking,

legal, campus operations, payroll, insurance/surety, accounting, purchasing and fleet. In this role, he is involved with a variety of cross-functional teams that serve as the operational backbone of the company, ensuring alignment between strategic goals and day-to-day execution.

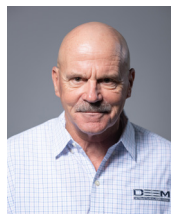


ABC Chief Economist **Anirban Basu** is chairman and CEO of Sage Policy Group Inc., an economic and policy consulting firm in Baltimore. The Baltimore Business Journal

named him one of the region's 20 most powerful business leaders in 2010. Basu teaches the history of economic thought at Goucher College as Distinguished Economist in Residence, and his radio show can be heard weekdays on WYPR, 88.1 FM Baltimore.



Pam Brink has 30 years of experience in healthcare construction project management. As director of capital projects for MD Anderson Cancer Center, Brink is responsible for \$1.7 billion of major capital projects.



David C. Deem is president of Deem Structural Services LLC, which is an AISC advanced certified steel erector headquartered in Longview, Texas. He served on the Steel

Erectors Association of America Board of Directors from 2016 to 2024 and as president from 2022 to 2024. He has been involved with the organization since 1995.



Nick Espinosa is an expert in cybersecurity and network infrastructure who has consulted with clients ranging from small businesses to Fortune 100 companies. In

2015, he launched Security Fanatics, dedicated to designing custom cyber defense strategies for medium to large-scale enterprise corporations. Espinosa is a member of the Forbes Technology Council, a TEDx speaker and co-author of the bestselling book, "Easy Prey."



Clarence Evenson is the vice president of global engineering for Solenis. Solenis provides chemicals, service and solutions for water and hygiene, with more than 16,000 employees and

62 manufacturing facilities across five continents. With a 35-plus year career, his experience spans engineering, construction and operations, having worked as both owner and contractor. Evenson leads a team of more than 140 engineers and project managers, executing projects across all facilities and regions.



Robert Feldbauer is the chief facilities and real estate development officer for Children's Health. In this role, he provides senior level leadership, strategic oversight and

management for all facility, real estate and planning, design and construction, off-site property management, security, environmental services and engineering and project management across the system. Feldbauer is an executive health care leader with global experience spanning more than 30 years.



Jon Hayes is the general manager of Construction at Nucor Corp., the largest steel producer in the United States. He has held that position since 2016. Hayes oversees the design,

engineering and construction of Nucor's new and existing facilities across the country. He has served Nucor during the construction of seven major greenfield projects and multiple brownfield projects.

ABC'S ROADMAP TO **TOP PERFORMER** RECOGNITION



3



Companies honored as ABC Top Performers enjoy broad recognition they can share with current and prospective clients, fellow contractors, employees, the media and the local community.

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STEP® is a self-assessment of your company's commitment to health and safety. It is the foundation of all ABC programs that recognize companies for this commitment.

abc.org/topperformers

Meet the Speakers



Mike Holland is chief operating officer for MAREK, an 87-year-old interior finishes specialty contractor. Holland has been with MAREK for 54 years. He currently serves on the board of

the Greater Houston Partnership's UpSkill Houston Initiative and ABC's Trimmer Construction Education Fund Committee. He has also served on the board of the Construction Career Collaborative as well as the Houston chapter boards for ABC, ASA and AGC.



As project manager at Kiewit, **Nik Hunter** brings a wealth of experience and a diverse skill set, excelling in day-to-day field operations, project engineering, contract

administration and design phase services. In his role, he oversees construction operations, ensuring seamless coordination among all parties involved—from designers and subcontractors to material suppliers, owner personnel and stakeholders. Hunter has a proven record with successful alternative delivery projects, such as design-build and CMAR.



Brandon Jordan is the director of strategy and development at Kwest Group, where he oversees strategic planning, growth initiatives and human resources. He brings

a practical perspective shaped by experience in project management and business development, with a focus on aligning people, resources and long-term goals. His work emphasizes building resilient and collaborative teams and organizations that deliver value in civil and environmental construction.



Josh Kanner, senior director of product and strategy, is responsible for the artificial intelligence and analytics strategy for Oracle Construction and Engineering. He joined

Oracle upon its acquisition of Newmetrix, the AI-powered safety risk analytics

software provider that he founded and led as CEO. Prior to Newmetrix, he was co-founder of Vela Systems, a pioneer in the use of web and tablet workflows for construction and capital projects.



Brian Lines is a professor at the University of Kansas. For the past dozen years, he has interacted with the next generation of our workforce in courses such as estimating,

preconstruction, project management and, more recently, artificial intelligence. Lines also works with the Simplar Foundation, which is currently conducting a study for ABC National on the topics of multiskilling and industry-recognized apprenticeship programs.



Ed Luckenbach is a project manager at Universal Industrial Gases, a subsidiary of Nucor Steel. He previously worked at Air Products and Chemicals as manager

of construction and commissioning. Luckenbach has spent more than 33 years in industrial gas plant engineering, design, and construction and his career includes project, construction and commissioning management. His passion is promoting craft health and safety, project leadership and collaborating with contractors who wish to make projects successful.



Muthu Manohar is the chief marketing officer and senior vice president of engineering at Hilti North America. He has been with Hilti since 2015, working in sales and marketing

leadership roles. Prior to Hilti, Manohar worked at Booz & Co. as a strategy consultant. He started his career at Swinerton Builders in California.



Fred Marsh has 28 years of experience in project controls, management, construction and civil engineering across various sectors, including power, transportation, government and

commercial. His expertise includes project governance, planning, risk management, performance oversight and dispute resolution. At Duke Energy, he has held roles in project governance and execution, currently serving as a project controls manager supporting the coal combustion products organization.



Mike Mendoza is currently the landside director on the United Airlines Program Management team, which oversees the \$2.5 billion Terminal B Transformation Program at George

Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston. He leads the planning and execution of the new Terminal B Processor renovation and expansion on behalf of United Airlines Corporate Real Estate.



As the leader of Diverge, Hensel Phelps's innovation entity, **Thai Nguyen** is pioneering a new approach to sourcing, evaluating and deploying disruptive

solutions for the construction industry. With more than 20 years of experience in the architectural and construction industries, his vision is to leverage technology and collaboration while empowering Hensel Phelps to innovate and build the future of the industry.



Ryan K. Odendahl is president and CEO of Kwest Group, an all employee-owned heavy civil contractor and the 2024 ABC Contractor of the Year. Under his leadership, Kwest

has expanded from a regional firm into a nationally recognized company serving the energy, rail, industrial, petrochemical, defense and infrastructure markets. A former U.S. Marine with a background in environmental science and industrial construction, Odendahl brings more than 20 years of leadership experience to his role.

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Meet the Speakers



Joe M. Powell is executive director of the Institute for Healthcare Infrastructure Research, a program of the University Research Institute in Washington, D.C. A registered

architect, Powell has spent his 40-year career researching the relationship between corporate strategy, human behavior and the built environment. He is the author of "The New Competitiveness in Design & Construction."



Vanessa Quinto is a professional civil engineer in the states of Arizona and California. She has 20 years with Jacobs Engineering and is currently the design manager for the

Valley Metro Capitol Extension project in Phoenix. Quinto started her career with a general contractor in the Bay Area, building the San Francisco Muni Segment E light rail extension. Her engineering career includes utilities, roadway, site civil and transit projects.



Zack Rajter is a senior superintendent with over 13 years of experience in the architecture, engineering and construction industry, all of which have been with Clark. He brings

extensive knowledge and leadership to complex projects, overseeing all field staff and construction efforts. As a senior superintendent, Rajter is responsible for supervising and coordinating trade contractors and Clark trades, facilitating communication between field engineers and trade contractors and ensuring project safety and quality control.



Kevin Sell is the senior manager of corporate development at Kwest Group, a heavy, multidisciplinary civil contractor based in Perrysburg, Ohio, with regional offices in

Roanoke, Virginia, Dallas and Charlotte, North Carolina. Sell has also served as a special government employee for the U. S.

Department of Labor for 23 years, as well as chairman of the Kentucky Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission.



Greg Sizemore is ABC vice president of health, safety, environment and workforce development. With more than 45 years of industry experience, Sizemore is a leader and subject matter

expert in construction and the business community on health and safety and workforce development initiatives.

Prior to joining ABC in 2015, Sizemore played an integral role in the formation of competency-based health and safety, project management and craft workforce development programs.



Mike Sotak is a licensed professional civil engineer with over 15 years of expertise in transportation and heavy civil infrastructure. He began his career in field inspection before

rising to resident engineer at Valley Metro. Sotak has played a pivotal role in delivering six major light rail capital projects across Phoenix, guided by a passion for connecting communities and enhancing lives.



Kenneth Sullivan, Ph.D., is a professor at the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University, teaching advances in construction delivery and innovation.

He specializes in construction delivery approaches, best value procurement, performance and risk measurement and organizational transformation. He has helped Fortune 500 companies and public organizations transform their construction services, including the city of Los Angeles, Google and Georgia-Pacific.



Kristen Swearingen is vice president of government affairs at ABC. Known as one of the top lobbyists year after year, she leads the association's lobbying

efforts on Capitol Hill and coalition efforts in the business community, chairing the Coalition for a Democratic Workplace. Prior to joining ABC, she was a staffer in the office of former Sen. Jim Bunning, R-Ky.



Dominick Trupia

has over 20 years of experience in airport and highway construction. He has managed multiple projects for United Airlines as program manager, including a 2.5-

wide body hangar, new Terminal C north and new automated people mover train section and station, all at George Bush Intercontinental Airport in Houston, as well as a new cargo building at Chicago O'Hare International Airport.



Cassidy Welch is the key account manager for EPC Partnerships Region North America for BASF Corp.

Previously, he served as the global category buyer for engineering services for BASF's Region US. Welch started his career at Black Hills Power in Gillette, Wyoming, where he was the procurement manager for a series of power generation projects.



Jennifer Wilkerson

is the vice president of innovation and advancement at the National Center for Construction Education and Research. Her background includes

teaching high school English for 13 years and serving as the acting business manager for six years at the welding and fabrication company she and her husband founded and owned. Wilkerson actively presents on workforce development issues and resources, construction career pathways, industry-education partnerships, women in construction and recruitment into the construction industry.



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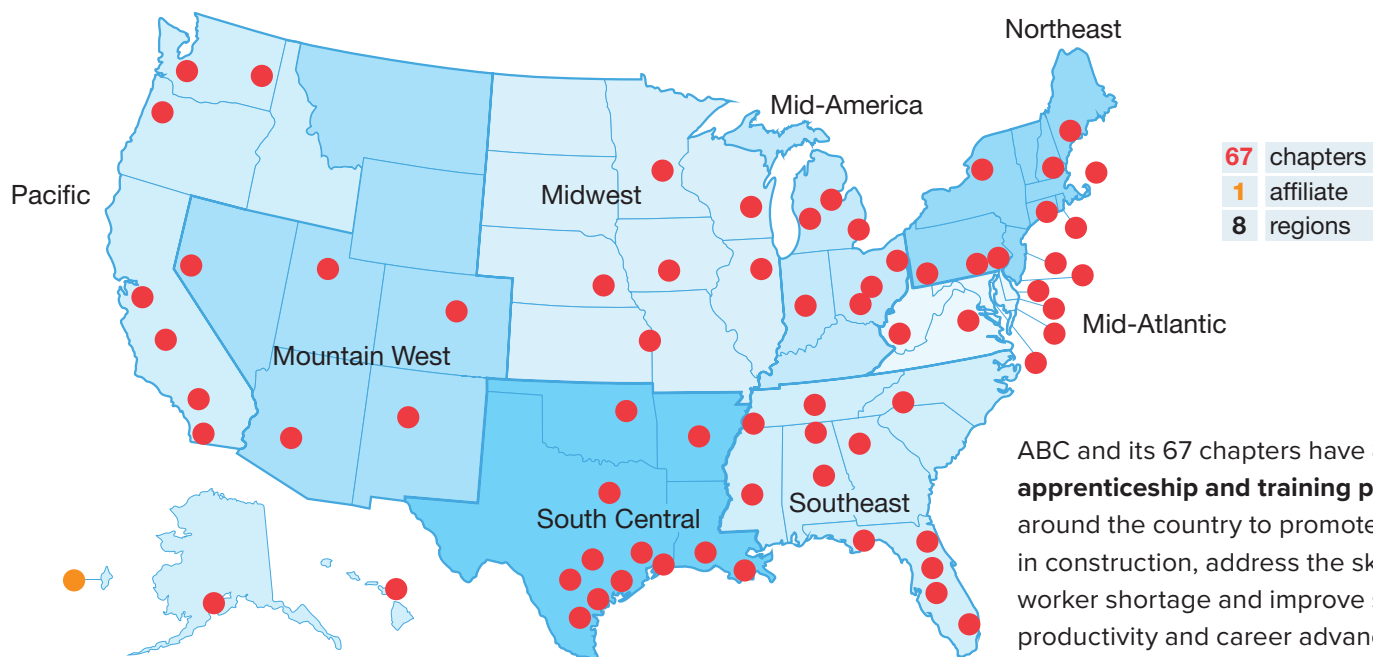
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