

HONORING NWI'S CONTRACTORS

Construction Advancement Foundation (CAF) Celebrates Industry Achievements

By Nick Dmitrovich

Construction Advancement Foundation of Northwest Indiana (CAF) recently held its annual awards ceremony to celebrate industry achievements. Hosted in conjunction with the Northwest Indiana Business Roundtable (NWI/BRT) Safety Awards, the evening honors the best projects undertaken by NWI's industrial, commercial and public works projects and the companies behind them.

Nominees are selected based on how well they meet or exceed the following criteria: safety; excellence in partnering and teamwork; quality in project management; innovation and uniqueness in construction techniques; sympathy for the environment and its surroundings; character and value that was added to the community; and craftsmanship.

"The construction companies that make up the CAF's membership represent some of the absolute best companies found anywhere in the construction industry," said Dewey Pearman, Executive Director of the CAF. "Their commitment to safety, innovation, creativity and quality workmanship helps augment the entire field of construction, and their willingness to learn and continue to evolve helps sustain the levels of success that they have worked so hard to develop. We couldn't be prouder of these companies, and tonight is all about honoring their achievements."

"This year's award winners have provided economic development opportunities throughout the entire Northwest Indiana region and are major drivers of job creation – something every business

in our region can appreciate. It is the CAF's mission to continue advocating for the industry; to constantly find new pathways towards future development, and to inspire our members to learn about new growth opportunities," Pearman said.

The Pangere Corporation was the Commercial Project of the Year winner for the CAF's new Construction Safety Institute Building in Portage. The Construction Safety Institute is a unique building in that it was designed using only U.S.A. made materials and will be used to train other construction industry professionals.

"The project had some unique turns in that it was being built next to an existing underground pipeline, requiring multiple coordination meetings between Pangere, BP and the CAF Design Team to address

the concerns of the pipeline company and the needs of the owner," said Bill Rathjen, Executive Vice President of The Pangere Corporation. "It also required close communications with suppliers and subcontractors to coordinate the "Buy USA" requirements on the project, addressing the unusual issues that the site and type of building use created through the construction process."

"We are extremely proud of the way our project management and field supervision teams conducted themselves and completed the project successfully. We are also delighted to see they are being recognized for their efforts with this award," Rathjen said.

Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc. was awarded the title of Industrial-Capital Project of the Year winner for the work they performed on the installation of two wet flue gas desulfurization (WFGD) units at NIPSCO's R.M. Schahfer Generating Station in Wheatfield, Indiana. When asked about some of the unique aspects of the project that earned Graycor the award for Industrial-Capital Project of the year, Kevin Grooms, Construction Manager for the project, said, "We believe performing 340,000 man-hours without an injury and our continuous effort to reduce the safety

risks on the project helped earn Graycor this award. One of the unique features of this project was that Graycor's team was able to utilize the company's new state-of-the-art fabrication shop located in close proximity to the job to modularize a significant number of components."

"Graycor is extremely honored to achieve this prestigious award," said Grooms. "We greatly appreciate the opportunity to work for clients – through the operation of the Northwest Indiana Building & Construction Trades – who promote safe and productive projects."

Sam Potter, President of Graycor, said, "Graycor continues to work hard to improve areas we know are crucial in our business. For the past several years, we've steadily reduced our recordable incident rate by at least 20 percent to our current rate of 0.64, and we recently successfully renewed our quality certifications for ISO, AISC, ASME and national boards."

"Because Graycor has provided construction services in the Northwest Indiana Region since the 1920s, we value our long-established relationships with clients such as ArcelorMittal, BP, NIPSCO and U.S. Steel. We're proud and honored to continue to do business with these clients today," Potter added.

Superior Construction was the lead contractor on the Whiting Lakefront Revitalization project, which involves the beautification of the Whiting shoreline into a new regional destination complete with a new two-tiered boardwalk that connects to trails leading to Chicago and Hammond, new nature upgrades and a new event center. Superior's efforts earned them the Public Works Project of the Year award.

Steve Fernandez, Project Supervisor with Superior, said, "It is an honor to win this award. This is a great accomplishment for our Superior, our employees and also a great success for the city of Whiting."

Fernandez went on to cite some unique features of the project, saying, "Safety was always at the forefront of every employee mind on this project. The unique pile driving template was designed specifically for this project to help better align the piles, and the steel template also functioned as a safety work platform for the pile drivers. The focus Superior had for the environment while working in Whiting as well as on Lake Michigan was immense. The overall result of improving the human connection to the lakefront and preserving the history of Whiting's lakefront was very successful."



The Ross Group, Inc. won the Excellence in Professional Development Award. Pictured are (l to r): Zane Baker, CAF Board Member Brad Niebert, Kirt Witham and Kevin Symons.



Superior Construction Co., Inc. earned the Public Works Project of the Year award for the Whiting Lake Front Revitalization Project. Pictured are (l to r): Whiting, Indiana Mayor Joseph Sathura, CAF Board Member Brad Niebert and Steve Fernandez.



BMW Constructors won the Industrial Contractor of the Year award. Pictured are, back row (l to r): Jimmy Shue, Nick Randles, Troy Solits, Greg Kroh, Jeff Punak, Andy Thomas. Front row: Doug Patton, Chris Buckman, CAF Board Member Brad Niebert, Rick Stovall, Bill Sanchez, Eric Schmidt, Tom Wiatrowski, and Kristyn Loubdermilk.



Thatcher Foundations Inc. earned the Maintenance/Service Contract Work project of the year award. Pictured are, front (l to r): Anna Skelton, Van Sutphen, CAF Executive Director Dewey Pearman, Michael Wysockey, Ben Milbrath. Back (l to r): Dave Cooper, Glenn Rodd, Greg Osborn, John Wysockey, Rick Owens, John Poppewell.



Falk-PI Engineering & Surveying earned the Professional Engineering Contractor of the Year award. Pictured are (l to r): Scott Falk, Dorothy Falk, Mike Young, CAF Board Member Brad Niebert, Mike Falk, Sharon Otto, Ralph Pollaro, Nancy Hake.



Walsh & Kelly, Inc. took home the Highway Contractor of the Year award. Pictured are (l to r): Doug Robinson, Jerry Hancock, CAF Board Member Brad Niebert, Jeff Swan, Dan McClure and John Wall.

Tricia Hanrath, Safety Director with Superior, said her office was most proud of, "Safe work productivity, and achieving this award as well as the NWIBRT Safety Excellence award."

Thatcher Foundations took home two awards at this year's CAF awards ceremony: Specialty Contractor of the Year and Maintenance/Service Contract Work Project of the Year for the company's efforts in rehabilitating and repairing the docks at ArcelorMittal. John Wysocky, Vice President of Thatcher Foundations, said, "We're very excited and very humbled to be recognized for these accomplishments, and we're very appreciative."

Michael Wysocky, President/CEO of Thatcher Foundations, said, "We are very excited about winning these prestigious awards. This is our first time winning the Maintenance award, and we are honored to have won the Specialty Contractor of the Year award for five of the past six years. This past year has been our first calendar year without a single recordable injury in our company, and we were founded in 1946."

This year's Excellence in Professional Development award went to The Ross Group, Inc. "Winning the Excellence in Professional Development Award means a

CAF 2014 Award Winners

Excellence in Professional Development
The Ross Group, Inc.

Maintenance/Service Contract Work
Thatcher Foundations Inc.
ArcelorMittal Dock Repair

Industrial-Capital Project of the Year
Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc.
NIPSCO WFGD Project

Commercial Project
The Pangere Corporation
Construction Advancement Safety Institute

Public Works Project of the Year
Superior Construction Co., Inc.
Whiting Lake Front Revitalization Project

Commercial Contractor of the Year
Hasse Construction Co., Inc.

Industrial Contractor of the Year
BMWC Constructors

Professional Engineering
Falk-PLI Engineering & Surveying

Specialty Contractor
Thatcher Foundations Inc.

Highway Contractor
Walsh & Kelly, Inc.

lot to The Ross Group," said Kirt Witham, Director of Business Development with The Ross Group. "We're constantly striving to find innovative ways to expand the skill-sets of our employees through continuing education opportunities and training, especially when it comes to new technology and safety. Learning is the key to growth, and we're very proud of the efforts our team has made to constantly move forward and improve their already outstanding abilities."

Hasse Construction Co., Inc. was awarded the distinguished Commercial Contractor of the Year award at this year's ceremony. When asked what achievements he was most proud of this year, John Hasse, Secretary and Construction Manager with Hasse Construction, said, "We're very proud of the quality construction efforts of all of our tradesmen and women. We're also proud of the reputation we've earned with our clients, many of which are repeat clients, because it makes us feel very good about all of the hard work we've been doing."

He mentioned some of the company's biggest projects this year saying, "This year we worked on a lot of interesting projects; Roehl Trucking in Gary, which was a rehab project, and lots of work at Community Hospital in Munster, and others." Falk-PLI Engineering & Surveying earned the Professional Engineering Contractor of the Year award, and com-

pany President and CEO Mike Falk said he was most proud of the return on investment for his clients across numerous Falk-PLI projects.

"We continue to be grateful for the opportunity to help our clients manage schedule, budget, and risks associated with projects. Often we focus on the larger capital projects to drive process improvements, however as evidenced by our nominated projects, improved maintenance practices can also significantly impact ROI," he said.

The CAF presented Walsh & Kelly with the Highway Contractor of the Year award during this year's ceremony. "Of course our company, Walsh & Kelly, is honored to win the Highway Contractor of the Year Award for our efforts this year – but more importantly than that, we're honored to have a company that consists of some of the finest construction professionals in the industry. The men and women that are involved in our company are some of the most professional, dedicated, informed and expert people we could ever hope to have on our team. Winning this award wouldn't be possible without their hard work and commitment to safety and excellence," said Daniel McClure, Project Manager/Estimator with Walsh & Kelly.

Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc. Pictured are (l to r): Jill Nelbert, Jay Beere, Bryan Knudsen, Cheryl Hansen, Kevin Grooms (Accepting on behalf of Graycor), Steve Sandberg, Tom Gore, Mickie Gore, Shawn Kelly (presenting), Ted Vrehas, Jim Armour, Brad Nelbert, Randy Hynek, Sam Potter, Preet Singh, Aman Singh, Kim Sandberg.



The Pangere Corporation earned the Commercial Project of the Year award. Pictured are (l to r): Felix Duron, Don Ellingsen, Bill Rathjen, Jim Vermillion, CAF Chairman Shawn Kelly, Jeff Schaub, and Mike MacDonaldo.



The Industrial-Capital Project of the Year award went to Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc. Pictured are (l to r): Jill Nelbert, Jay Beere, Bryan Knudsen, Cheryl Hansen, Kevin Grooms (Accepting on behalf of Graycor), Steve Sandberg, Tom Gore, Mickie Gore, Shawn Kelly (presenting), Ted Vrehas, Jim Armour, Brad Nelbert, Randy Hynek, Sam Potter, Preet Singh, Aman Singh, Kim Sandberg.



Hasse Construction Co., Inc. earned the Commercial Contractor of the Year award. Pictured are Bill Hasse, CAF Board Member Brad Niebert, and Fred Armstrong.

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IF YOU PUT SAFETY FIRST, SUCCESS FOLLOWS

NWIBRT Awards Night Celebrates Stellar Performances in Construction Safety

By Nick Dmitrovich

Every spring, the Northwest Indiana Business Roundtable (NWIBRT) hosts its annual Safety Awards Banquet to honor Northwest Indiana companies that have exhibited outstanding achievements in safety practices throughout their facilities and jobsites. The event is held in tandem with the Construction Advancement Foundation's (CAF) Construction Awards ceremony and represents a combined effort between the two organizations to celebrate the continued success of the region's construction industry professionals and their companies.

"The annual CAF/NWIBRT Awards Ceremony is a very important event for the contractor companies and the safety professionals that support them. This event gives company owners and managers an opportunity to see how their performance compares to that of their competitors. It also re-enforces how much emphasis the owner companies place on safety and the expectation for contractors to continuously improve. The NWIBRT Safety Committee annually awards contractors for innovative and superior safety accomplishments, and the Northwest Indiana contractor community as a whole ranks nationally at the top in safety statistics," said Jeff Scheub, Field Safety Manager of the Pangere Corporation and NWIBRT Award Committee Chair.

"I believe that the owner companies of NWIBRT share in the proud tradition of safety in the work place and should be recognized for the value and culture they share with contractor members on a day to day basis. At this year's award event



Tim Maley, Deputy Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Labor, was a guest presenter at the awards banquet.



More than 600 people attended the CAF-NWIBRT Awards Banquet to celebrate outstanding achievement in construction and safety excellence.



Shack Mechanical Corporation earned an Excellence Award. Pictured are (l to r): Eric Estes, NWIBRT Executive Committee Chairman Joe Coar, Steve Fatwush, and George Cropper.



Solid Platforms, Inc. earned an Excellence Award. Pictured are (l to r): Mike Brewster, Jason Lammertlin, Chris Clare, NWIBRT Executive Committee Member Don Bull, Sam Marasco, Tom Dunajewski, Richard Gatzel.



AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc. earned a Recognition Award. Pictured are (l to r): Chris Amly, NWIBRT Executive Committee Chairman Joe Coar, Mark Hook, and Bret Bol.



Brandenburg Industrial Service Company earned the Contractor of the Year Award. Pictured are, back row (l to r): Neville Hayes, Marvin Wogramic, Jorge Rojas, Drew Deichmann, Tim Garvey, Andy Youpel, NWIBRT Executive Committee Chairman Joe Coar, and Jolynn Graca.



The Ross Group, Inc. earned an Achievement Award. Pictured are (l to r): Zane Baker, NWIBRT Executive Committee Vice Chairman Bill Satterlee, Kirt Witham, and Kevin Symons.

the contractor members and the owner companies of NWIBRT will unite to share our goals, our accomplishments and our excellence in safety," Scheub said.

Andrea Pearman, NWIBRT's Executive Director, said, "There are two key reasons why we're holding this award ceremony tonight; one is to honor outstanding achievement in safety in a professional/business sense, and the other is to celebrate the humanitarian side of safety. Our award winners tonight are the companies who keep their workers safe on the job so they can return home to their families each night, and that is truly something worth celebrating. NWIBRT is very proud to be presenting these awards to tonight's winners."

Rick Foor, Chair of the NWIBRT Safety Committee and Health, Safety, Security & Environmental Assurance Auditor at BP, said, "CAF and NWIBRT collaborate on this event because both organizations know how important it is to recognize the ongoing success of safety in the construction industry. Tonight's winning companies have done an outstanding job of ensuring the safety and security of all of their workers."

Tim Maley, Deputy Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Labor, and NWIBRT Executive Director Pearman presented the Owner Excellence in Leadership Awards to this year's winning companies: BP and NIPSCO. Award Committee Chair Scheub said, "The NWIBRT Safety Committee awards contractors for innovative and superior safety accomplishments, and the

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Northwest Indiana contractor community as a whole ranks nationally at the top in safety statistics. These two companies, BP and NIPSCO, are a shining example of these achievements."

It's incredibly important to remember that the face of Northwest Indiana's construction industry would be drastically different from what it is today if it weren't for the efforts of this event's honorees. For one, costs of construction projects would be much higher due to the time lost from what would certainly be a higher rate of injuries, which would have a direct impact on the entire region's economy. Secondly, there would be many more situations involving lives needlessly lost on the job; which is truly a tragedy that's prevented every day by the commitment that these winners make to safety across their companies and projects.

NWIBRT is just as proud to present these awards to the winners as they are to receive them, because this evening's honorees collectively form a big picture of true safety excellence throughout Northwest Indiana's construction industry. "These men and women have done outstanding work this year," said NWIBRT Executive Committee Chairman Joe Coar. "We're happy to honor them, because they protect the lives of our workers, family members and friends."

For a complete listing of the criteria involved with each type of award, please visit www.nwibr.org/awards.

OWNER EXCELLENCE IN LEADERSHIP AWARDS

- BP
- NIPSCO

CONTRACTOR OF THE YEAR

- Brandenburg Industrial Service Company

EXCELLENCE AWARD

- Brandenburg Industrial Service Company
- Superior Construction Co., Inc.
- Solid Platforms, Inc.
- Interstate Environmental Services, Inc.
- Manta Industrial, Inc., a K2 Industrial Services Company
- Meade
- Mid-American Group
- Scheck Mechanical Corporation
- Stevenson Crane Service, Inc.
- MC Industrial, Inc.
- Imperial Crane Services Inc.
- Cornerstone Electrical Consultants, Inc.
- Middough Inc.
- R.J. Mycka, Inc.
- Cardno ATC
- Airgas On-Site Safety Services
- CATSI, Inc.
- Ambitech Engineering Corporation
- Nooter Construction Company

ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

- Walsh & Kelly, Inc.
- Mechanical Concepts, Inc.
- The Ross Group, Inc.
- G. E. Marshall, Inc.

- Thatcher Foundations Inc.
- Hayes Mechanical
- BMWC Constructors
- Gariup Construction Co., Inc.
- ACMS Group, Inc.
- M & O Environmental Company
- BRAND Energy & Infrastructure Services, Inc.
- Correct Construction, Inc.
- DLZ Industrial, LLC

RECOGNITION AWARDS

- Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc.
- Atlantic Plant Services, LLC
- AMS Mechanical Systems, Inc.
- Code Red Safety
- Tranco Industrial Services, Inc.
- Tonn and Blank Construction, LLC
- M & O Insulation Company
- Safway Services, LLC
- The American Group of Constructors
- EMCOR Hyre Electric Company of Indiana, Inc.
- KM Plant Services, Inc., a K2 Industrial Services Company
- Hasse Construction Company, Inc.
- Sargent Electric Company
- Matrix North American Construction Inc.
- Korellis Roofing, Inc.
- Amex Nooter, LLC

INNOVATION AWARD

- Hayes Mechanical
- NIPSCO

ROGER WALTERS AWARD

- Matt Ireland, Hayes Mechanical



Mechanical Concepts, Inc. earned an Achievement Award. Ralph Neff (left) is shown accepting the award from NWIBRT Executive Committee Member Don Bull (right).



BP earned an Owner Excellence in Leadership Award. Pictured are (l to r): Jimmy Shue, Nick Bandies, Troy Solis, Greg Kroh, Jeff Purnek, Andy Thomas, Rick Stovall, Bill Sanchez, Eric Schmidt, Tom Wiatrowski, Krislyn Loudermilk.



Stevenson Crane Service, Inc. earned an Excellence Award. Pictured are (l to r): Ryan Carley, Pat DeLis, and NWIBRT Executive Committee Chairman Joe Coar.



ACMS Group, Inc. earned an Achievement Award. Pictured are (l to r): Karen Robinson, Nate Robinson, Bo DePaoli, Loydd Hayes, NWIBRT Executive Committee Member Don Bull, Jim Harvey, Jim DePaoli, and Nancy DePaoli.



The American Group of Constructors earned a Recognition Award. Pictured are (l to r): Stacy Keilman, Stan Wyatt, Danny Jones, Justin Rich, NWIBRT Executive Committee Vice Chairman Bill Satterlee, Matt Gali, Hollie Mullenix, and Scott Tilford.



Airgas On-Site Safety Services earned an Excellence Award. NWIBRT Executive Committee Vice Chairman Bill Satterlee (left) is presenting the award to Rich Greene.



Tranco Industrial Services, Inc. earned a Recognition Award. Pictured are (l to r): Tim Beck, NWIBRT Executive Committee Member Don Bull, and Bill Lucialis.



EMCOR Hyre Electric Company of Indiana, Inc. earned a Recognition Award. Pictured are (l to r): Tom Gozdecki, Randy Parker, Tom Coulter, Larry Hepp, NWIBRT Executive Committee Chairman Joe Coar, Dane Bormann, Tom VanDermeer.



NIPSCO look home one of this year's Innovation Awards. Back row, left to right: Randy Hynsek (of Graycor Industrial Constructors), Matt Ireland (of Hayes Mechanical), Russ Adams, Bryan Burns. Front row: Jerry O'Grady (of Pekon Consulting), Ashley Tolton, Jenn Miller, Doug Faton (of BMWC Constructors), NWIBRT Executive Committee Chairman Joe Coar, and Don Bull.



Matt Ireland, of Hayes Mechanical, won the Roger Walters Award. NWIBRT Executive Committee member Don Bull is presenting him the award.



BRAND Energy & Infrastructure Services, Inc. earned an Achievement Award. Pictured are (l to r): John Kasang, Robert Schiller, NWIBRT Executive Committee member Don Bull, Jon Rogers.