



MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring is officially underway in Washington DC as we welcome cherry blossom season and hundreds of electrical contractors to Capitol Hill for NECA's annual Legislative Conference. This spring also marks the April kickoff of the Westinghouse Cohort of the NECA Innovation Institute. The Institute brings together rising industry pioneers to embrace and implement new strategies and technologies. NECA members in the Institute are educated on the latest industry innovations and provided with the tools and resources to implement these solutions across their businesses.



Through the NECA Innovation Institute, candidates gain access to educational resources, training programs, and events that focus on cutting-edge industry innovations. The Innovation Institute also serves as a hub for networking and collaboration among NECA members who are interested in adopting new technologies and exploring best practices.

During the April 11 – 12 Kickoff event, the Westinghouse Cohort of the Institute began their yearlong journey to investigate the tools and resources that help electrical contractors stay competitive and grow their businesses. The new candidates dove into workshops on design thinking, communicating with impact, networking, emotional intelligence, and political advocacy. They each began to develop the foundation of their unique Capstone Projects – a practical means of applying these strategies within their organizations.

NECA is proud to celebrate the 2023 – 2024 Westinghouse Cohort of the Innovation Institute. Each candidate was nominated by their executive teams for their exemplary contributions and growth-potential within their organizations. The outstanding leaders of the Westinghouse Cohort are already spearheading significant impact within their teams. NECA is honored to support these pioneers as they begin the journey that will shape the next chapter of their career.

Institute Candidate	Executive Sponsor	Company	Location
Bobby Falzone	Lawrence Mahoney	Lynnwell Associates, Inc.	Quincy, MA
Nick Behnken	Matt Hartshorn	ESI Electrical Contractors	Dayton, OH
Mike Stahl	Carson Rogers	Chewing & Wilmer, Inc.	Richmond, VA
Samuel Rokowski	Randy Maddox	Maddox Electric Company, Inc.	Winter Garden, FL
Shane Davin	Shawn Smith	DL Smith Electric	Topeka, KS
Greg Miller	Sonja Rheame	Christenson Electric	Portland, OR
Sheri Trzebiatowski	Steve Stone	ArchKey Solutions	Plymouth, MN
Tanner Venema	Rhett Butler	Skyline Electric Co.	West Valley City, UT
Jeremy Flanders	Brett Boncher	Cupertino Electric Inc.	San Francisco, CA
Trey Theobald	Phil Matthews	O'Connell Electric	Rochester, NY

Tauhira Ali
NECA Executive Director of Industry Innovation
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INDUSTRY PIONEERS



"Future (Institute) candidates should be prepared to be challenged. Use the coat closet to hang your ego and dive in. Be open to receive constructive feedback, and learning."



Dennis Harter
Vice President at Kaiser Electric
NII Clarke Cohort, 2022

Click/Scan for more info about the NECA Innovation Institute



"By nature, people resist change, but the most important thing is if you can help them understand the why."

Duane Hendricks
Chairman of the Board at Egan Company



Click/Scan to check out the Innovation Overload Podcast

Celebrate Your Innovators!

The **NECA Innovator of the Year** is awarded to an industry pioneer from a NECA member contractor who champions innovation and continuous improvement across their company and the entire NECA community.

Click/Scan to nominate an innovative team member today



AROUND THE INDUSTRY



WHAT WE'RE READING

- [Younger Construction Employees May Not Lead to the Digital Future](#) 3/28/23, ForConstructionPros.com
- [Driving On Electric Avenue—Innovation Pushes Energy Transformation](#) 4/3/23, Power Magazine
- [How construction is an Industry 4.0 application for AI](#) 4/6/23, TechTarget



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [ENR GWIC](#) 5/11/23 – 5/12/23 in San Francisco, CA
- [NECA Safety Conference](#) 5/24/26 – 5/26/23 in Nashville, TN
- [Advancing Preconstruction](#) 5/24/23-5/26/23 in Phoenix, AZ

