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
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Bobby Falzone | Lawrence Mahoney | Lynnwell Associates, Inc. | Quincy, MA
Nick Behnken | Matt Hartshorn | ESI Electrical Contractors | Dayton, OH
Mike Stahl | Carson Rogers | Chewning & 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 Rheuame | 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
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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

“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

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.

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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
  5/24/23 – 5/26/23 in Nashville, TN
- Advancing Preconstruction
  5/24/23-5/26/23 in Phoenix, AZ