## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Getting started with Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) can seem like a daunting task, but it doesn't have to be. With a few simple steps and strategic choices, you can create or elevate a comprehensive VDC process in no time.

Step 1: Identify Champions

The most important step in applying innovation is identifying the key players involved in your project. You'll need champions who can represent the key areas affected by this change and who will be candid to ensure that building or maturing your VDC practice adds value. These champions are involved at each step in your journey.

Step 2: Define Your Goals

Together with your champions, you will want to next define your goals. Ask yourselves questions such as: What do we want to accomplish with VDC? What are the end goals? How will VDC help achieve those goals? By answering these questions and creating clear measurable metrics, your team can create a plan to define and achieve success.
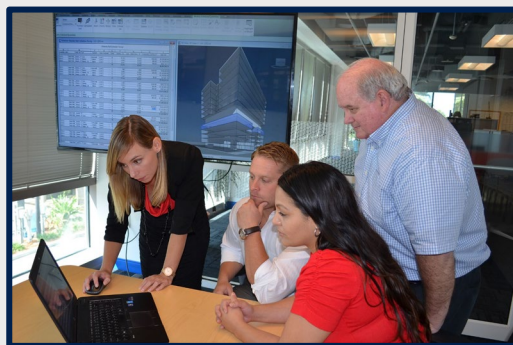
Step 3: Select the Right Solutions

The next step is to select the right solutions for your VDC system. These solutions could be software, like 3D modeling platforms and project planning systems, hardware, such as high-processing computers and jobsite tablets, or even 3rd party services and support. In the words of Amanda Comunale, VP of Strategy and Growth at Pinnacle Infotech, "A key takeaway I have learned over the years is that you don't need to have all the capabilities in-house. As a daughter of a contractor, who started in the fab shop making hangers, I always thought I needed to know everything to be successful. My mentors taught me along the way to identify where I need assistance and be able to ask for help."

You will want to select the tools and partners that best meet your needs and budget. Your champions will also help to ensure that any new systems, processes, or partners work well with the hardware and software you already have in place. The NECA Industry Alliance Network provides partners like Pinnacle Infotech, Procore, and other solutions providers who can support the creation or optimization of your VDC practice.

Step 4: Set Up Your System

Once you have selected your tools, the next step is to set up your VDC system. This includes connecting the software to the hardware, setting up the network, configuring the system, and piloting with your partners. It's important to make sure everything is properly configured and working correctly before using the system at scale.

Step 5: Create a Modeling Process

The next step is to create a modeling process. This involves creating a workflow for how the models will be created, stored, and shared. It's important to create a set of standards and procedures that everyone on the team can follow. This will ensure that everyone is working with the same data and that the models are accurate and up-to-date.

Step 6: Train Your Team

Once the system is up and running, the next step is to train your team on how to use the software. Your champions will be a huge part of this expanded roll-out. This includes teaching them the basics of the software, such as how to create simple models, how to use the tools, and how to save and share the models. It's important that everyone on the team is comfortable with the software so that they can take full advantage of the VDC system.

By following these steps, you can get started with VDC and be well on your way to creating more efficient and accurate models. VDC is a powerful tool that can make a huge difference in the efficiency of your projects. To the get most out of your VDC practice, get the right people involved, identify your ultimate goals, do your homework, and properly set up your system. As always, remember that innovation is a team sport and we're here to help!

Tauhira Ali
NECA Executive Director of Industry Innovation
innovation@necanet.org

INDUSTRY PIONEERS

NECA Innovation Institute

"Working for a woman owned electrical shop and appreciating and respecting each person's race and background enables me to maximize team synergies and produce innovative solutions to tough challenges."

Jeffry Fuentes
Executive Vice President at Aurora Electric
NII Edison Cohort, 2021 – 2022

Click/Scan for more info about the NECA Innovation Institute

NECA INNOVATION OVERLOAD PODCAST

"Innovation involves a lot of technology, but I look at innovation as change and being not afraid to change. How can we change the industry to make it better?"

Angie Simon
Executive Director and Co-Founder of Heavy Metal Summer Experience

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

➤ Construction Technology Funding Holds Steady at Nearly $5.4B
   2/15/23, Construction Dive

➤ Safety, Proximity and Supply Chain Optimization to Fuel Construction
   2/16/23, Engineering News-Record

➤ How to Recruit More Women into the Construction Industry
   2/9/23, Saltwire

📅 UPCOMING EVENTS

➤ 2023 National Legislative Conference
   3/27/23 – 3/29/23 in Washington, DC

➤ 2023 Women in NECA & Future Leaders (WINFL) Leadership Conference
   4/16/23 – 4/17/23 in San Antonio, TX

➤ NECA Now
   4/17/23 – 4/20/23 in San Antonio, TX