



NEWSLETTER

Spring 2024

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Spring of 2024 marks a pivotal period of growth and celebration for the NECA Innovation Institute. The Westinghouse Cohort recently convened in Washington DC on April 8 – 9 to celebrate their graduation after a year of program engagement. Joined by their Executive Sponsors, these innovative pioneers engaged in targeted strategic planning workshops and presented their customized Capstone Projects, reflecting the program's principles in their learning and leadership styles. Their dedication and spirit have been inspiring, and we're confident they'll continue making significant industry contributions as Innovation Institute alumni.

The Franklin Cohort of the Innovation Institute launched their yearlong journey through the program on April 10 – 11, continuing NECA's tradition of dedication to excellence and innovation. We eagerly anticipate the transformative ideas and collaborative problem-solving that will emerge from this talented group.

The NECA Innovation Institute offers candidates access to educational resources, training programs, and events focusing on cutting-edge industry innovations. It serves as a hub for networking and collaboration among NECA members interested in adopting new technologies and exploring best practices.

This exclusive, customized, year-long experience presents a unique opportunity for individuals passionate about innovation to refine their skills and shape the industry's future.

NECA remains committed to fostering a culture of innovation and driving industry progress. We are confident that the Franklin Cohort will continue to uphold our tradition of excellence and push the boundaries of what is possible. We're honored to support these pioneers as they shape the next chapter of their careers.



INDUSTRY PIONEERS



"Innovation is all about asking the right questions, wanting to help your team grow, and being the best that you can be. Always look for new approaches to complete tasks and listen to ideas from the team."

Jeremy Spaulding

Superintendent at Par Electrical Contractors
NII Clarke Cohort
2022



Click/Scan for more info about the NECA Innovation Institute



"We need to be better at selling our industry as something other than construction; we need to be better at showing what our industry really is, what it can be, what roads come out of an apprenticeship or a four-year degree, and how diverse that can look and be."

Shane Snyder

President of Cannon and Wendt



Click/Scan to check out the Innovation Overload Podcast

NECA Innovation Institute Franklin Cohort, 2024 – 2025

Institute Candidate	Executive Sponsor	Company	Location
Rebekah Scharfe	Alan Scharfe	John A. Penney Company, Inc.	Cambridge, MA
Brian Yetter	Andrew Lawler	West Side Hammer Electric	Bethlehem, PA
Crystal Wagner	Nathan Gerke	Gerke Electric	Cincinnati, OH
Leah Mack	Todd Grossweiler	Allison-Smith Company	Charleston, SC
Douglas Lazarus	Jarret Bergkamp	Decker Electric	Wichita, KS
Tiffany Robinson	Greg Miller	Christenson Electric	Portland, OR
Ed Green, PE	Dennis Harter	Kaiser Electric	Fenton, MO
Heath Blackburn	Jeremy L Wheeler	Wheeler Electric, Inc.	Idaho Falls, ID
Shane M. Williams	Jeff Vera	North/Western Electrical Corp.	Northglenn, CO
Todd Ennis	Joe Leggo	O'Connell Electric Company	Rochester, NY

Tauhira Ali
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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

- [Technologies That Rapidly Transform Construction Will Change Jobsites](#)
2/22/24, Engineering News Record
- [10 Innovations that Will Change Construction As We Know It](#)
2/10/24, Autodesk
- [What is a chief AI officer — and do you need one?](#)
3/3/23, Construction Dive



UPCOMING EVENTS

- [E2E Summit powered by NECA](#)
Apr 29 – May 1 in Washington, DC
- [NECA Safety Professionals Conference](#)
May 20 – 22 in Denver, CO
- [ENR Future Tech](#)
Jun 3 – 5 in San Diego, CA

