

# 2024 ABC Users Summit

Where contractors and project owners collaborate to improve the planning and delivery of construction projects.

**Hotel Crescent Court, Dallas | May 20-22, 2024**

[userssummit.abc.org](https://userssummit.abc.org)

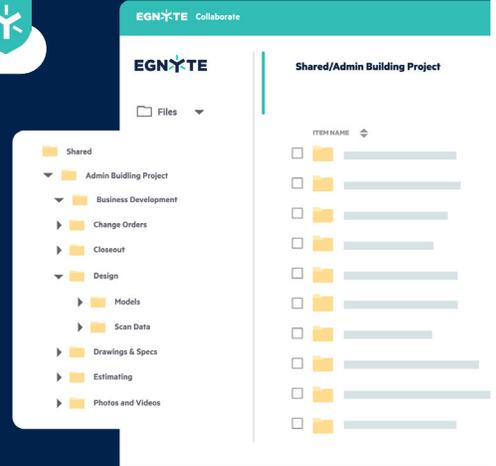




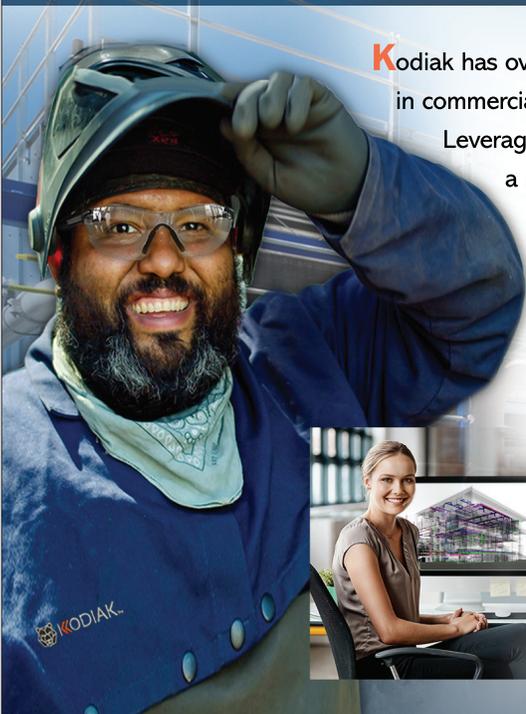
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# Welcome to the ABC Users Summit!



A true testament to the value the event has delivered to both project owners and contractors over the years, the ABC Users Summit is kicking off its 11th year.

Since 2013, the summit has evolved from being solely focused on the industrial market to now including owners and contractors working in any market

segment. Determined by a committed steering committee, the topics vary year to year based on market conditions, political influences and emerging technology, but the dedicated focus on collaboration and communication among industry leaders has remained a centerpiece of the event.

Thank you to the steering committee members for their leadership, and the sponsors, presenters and moderators for sharing their time and talent.

I would also like to thank our attendees—contractors and users alike—for taking time out of your schedule to attend. We will make the most of your time here and look forward to another momentous event.

If you need anything while on-site to make your experience more productive, please reach out to me or a member of the ABC National team.

Sincerely,

Kevin Sell, CVO  
United Group Services  
ABC Users Summit Chair



## 2024 ABC Users Summit

### ABC Users Summit Chair

Kevin Sell, *United Group Services*

### Steering Committee

Saied Alavi, *Marek*  
Michael Barker, *Hensel Phelps*  
Peter Dumont, *AG&P/PrairieDog Venture Partners*  
Tim Elmore, *Alkermes*  
John Hinson, *Marek*  
Ed Luckenbach, *Universal Industrial Gases*  
Ryan Odendahl, *Kwest Group*  
Tony Rader, *National Roofing Partners*  
Aaron Reisinger, *Sevan Multi-Site Solutions*  
Todd Stevens, *MetroPower*  
Barbara Wagner, *Clark Construction Group*  
Lowell T. Woods Jr., *Taft Law*

### WI-FI INFO

**Network:** Hotel Crescent Court Meetings

**Passcode:** ABCUsersSummit24

**Please feel free to contact ABC staff anytime.**

**Madeleine Dashiell**  
*Senior Manager of  
Meetings, Events and  
Sponsorships*  
dashiell@abc.org  
(757) 645-7188

**Betsy Strock**  
*Director of  
Member Services*  
stroock@abc.org  
(571) 262-1235

### Emergency Procedures

In the event of severe weather, meet in the hotel fitness center. In the event of a fire, meet at the reflection pond between the 500 buildings—Sixty Vines and Capital Grill. If there is an active shooter, head to the north side of Stanley Korshak, where Maple Avenue and Cedar Springs Road meet.

The nearest medical center is Baylor Scott & White Medical Center—Uptown, located at 2727 Lemmon Ave. East. Learn more at [bayloruptown.com](http://bayloruptown.com).

The nearest pharmacy is CVS Pharmacy, located at 2501 N. Field St.

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# Sessions

## Monday, May 20

5-6 p.m.

Meet and Greet *Garden Courtyard*

6 p.m.

Dinner on Your Own

## Tuesday, May 21

8 a.m.

Registration Opens (coffee and light fare available)  
*Crescent Foyer*

8:30-9:45 a.m.

The Good, The Bad and The Ugly—An Economic Forecast  
*Crescent Ballroom*

**Presenter:** Anirban Basu, Ph.D., ABC Chief Economist

Has the Federal Reserve successfully engineered a soft landing? Or is the confluence of geopolitical conflict, a presidential election, rising consumer debt levels and still-high interest rates conspiring to produce an economic downturn in 2024? This presentation will supply an in-depth analysis of major factors shaping economic outcomes, including interest rates, global conflict, wage dynamics, business confidence and demographics. It will then turn toward a forecast for the coming year, highlighting the major risks that economic stakeholders will likely encounter.

10-11 a.m.

Building Secure Futures: Cybersecurity Awareness in the Construction Industry  
*Crescent Ballroom*

**Moderator:** Aaron Vorwerk, Egnyte

**Panelists:** Bryan Ledbetter, Robins & Morton; James L. Oertling, Travelers; Christopher Thompson, Federal Bureau of Investigation

As the construction industry increasingly adopts digital technologies for project management, design and operations, the urgency for heightened cybersecurity awareness has never been greater. Cybersecurity experts, construction industry leaders and technology innovators will shed light on the importance of cybersecurity awareness and the practical steps needed to safeguard digital assets and sensitive information.

11:15 a.m.-12 p.m.

Utilizing Visual Management To Incentivize Teams  
*Crescent Ballroom*

**Moderator:** Kevin Sell, United Group Services

**Panelists:** Michael Barker, Hensel Phelps; Tim Elmore, Alkermes; Kevin Riggelman, United Group Services; Kenneth Sullivan, Ph.D., Arizona State University

Visual management plays a significant role in any successful endeavor by utilizing visual cues and tools to enhance performance communication. Visual management boards are utilized to display critical metrics, key performance indicators and actions in a clear, simple and visual manner. Employee ownership in meeting these goals is driven by engaging them in topics such as safety, quality and delivery on commitments.

12-12:30 p.m.

Lunch *Crescent Ballroom/Foyer*

12:45-1:30 p.m.

Challenges, Risks and Rewards in Selecting the “Perfect” Delivery Model and Contract  
*Crescent Ballroom*

**Moderator:** Barbara Wagner, Clark Construction Group

**Panelists:** Pamela N. Brink, MD Anderson Cancer Center; Dan Cook, University of Texas at Austin; Josh Shaw, Smithsonian Institution; Cassidy Welch, BASF

Find out how to structure procurement models and contracts to attract the top talent in a busy construction market and discover strategies to incentivize the project teams to be collaborative, transparent and committed to a project’s success. While gaining insight to how financing strategies play a role, learn best practices in distributing risk to those members who are most equipped for controlling or mitigating those risks and learn more about effective processes and governance strategies to build consensus and facilitate timely decisions. Then, gain deeper insights into supply chain strategies and innovations including supply bundling and project award bundling.



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# Sessions

## Tuesday, May 21 continued

1:45-3:45 p.m.

### WORKSHOP: Putting the Best Talent on the Construction Field—Why Should You Care? *Crescent Ballroom*

**Facilitator:** Mike Bellaman, ABC National

**Topic Leaders:** Chris Blike, KODIAK Construction Talent; Pete Dumont, AG&P and PrairieDog Venture Partners; John Hinson, Marek; Ed Luckenbach, Universal Industrial Gases; Tim Mongeau, ABC National; Kristen Swearingen, ABC National; Cassidy Welch, BASF

The construction industry workforce shortage is real, with factors such as an aging workforce, the lack of vocational high schools, immigration reform stagnation, negative career perception and inflation. Understand the industry impact and what construction users and contractors must invest and do to attract and retain the best talent in the industry to work on their projects. Participants will workshop breakthrough ideas on how the construction industry can collectively solve this chronic workforce shortage.

Workshop topics include:

- Authoring a merit-based worker visa process that works for the construction industry.
- Promoting careers in construction to high school-aged people who don't plan to attend college.
- Deploying all forms of construction apprenticeship programs across the United States.
- Utilizing project-based workforce development programs, such as remote and mega construction projects.
- Incentivizing and utilizing technology to manage workforce needs.
- Defining a robust construction employee value proposition.
- Understanding wage theft laws, compliance and prevention.

4-5 p.m.

### Addressing ESG and Its Impact on Capital Projects *Crescent Ballroom*

**Moderator:** Pete Dumont, AG&P and PrairieDog Venture Partners

**Panelists:** James C. Ellis, Ellisian; Jeffrey A. Mullins, Taft Law; Anne Ramsey, P&G; Pascal Ray, Blu Clarity

Shareholders, boards of directors and society in general are now demanding that essentially all companies, including those in the construction industry, become more sustainable and environmentally responsible. This panel will explore environmental, social and governance trends, discuss how companies are adapting and present new technologies that can help ABC members measure and report reliably on scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions. We also will discuss issues relative to sustainability and governance and how the construction industry can benefit from a stronger focus in these areas.

6:15 p.m.

### General Reception *Crescent Club*

7:15 p.m.

### Sponsored Dinner *Crescent Club*

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9 p.m.

### Post-Event Reception *Crescent Club*

## Wednesday, May 22

7:30-8 a.m.

### Breakfast *Crescent Ballroom/Foyer*

8-10 a.m.

### WORKSHOP: Understanding AI and Its Impact on the Construction Industry *Crescent Ballroom*

**Facilitator:** Matt Abeles, ABC National

**Topic Leaders:** Josh Kanner, Oracle; James McGehee, Littler; Thai Nguyen, Hensel Phelps

Join a panel of subject matter experts, ranging from technology companies to contractors, who are utilizing artificial intelligence in their business workflow. Created with all sized contractors in mind, attendees will learn about the basics of AI along with beneficial use cases through interactive group breakouts.

# Work With ABC Members

Founded on the merit shop philosophy, Associated Builders and Contractors helps its more than 23,000 members develop people, win work and deliver work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. From industry-leading health and safety programs to educational events, accreditation and award programs, ABC has the solutions for merit shop companies nationwide. [abc.org](http://abc.org)

## ABC Members Are Committed to Operational Excellence

**Measure, Strengthen and Build Your Safety Culture**



The logo features the ABC logo with an American flag motif, followed by 'STEP' in large letters and 'Safety Management System' in smaller text below it. Underneath is 'Associated Builders and Contractors'.

ABC's STEP Safety Management System® provides contractors and suppliers with a robust, no-cost framework for measuring safety data and benchmarking with peers in the industry to measure, strengthen and build their safety culture. With key components proven to be effective at improving health and safety performance, participants identify real opportunities for scalable growth in their safety programs to lower their total recordable incident rates. [abc.org/step](http://abc.org/step)

**Build With an Accredited Quality Contractor**



The logo features the ABC logo with an American flag motif, followed by 'Accredited Quality Contractor' in large letters and 'Associated Builders and Contractors' in smaller text below it.

The AQC credential benchmarks construction firms that demonstrate their commitment to corporate responsibility in quality, safety, craft and management education, talent management—including inclusion, diversity and merit—and community relations. Build with the Best. [abc.org/aqc](http://abc.org/aqc)

**Check Out an ABC Top Performer**



The logo is a circular seal with 'ABC' at the top, 'TOP PERFORMERS' in large letters in the center, and 'Associated Builders and Contractors' on a banner at the bottom.

Companies honored as ABC Top Performers have achieved high marks in safety, quality, diversity and project excellence and are ranked by work hours, with special designations identified. The 2024 edition features the top 250 contractors; top trade, specialty and general contractors; and top contractors by market; all of which have earned the elite Accredited Quality Contractor credential and STEP Gold or higher. [abc.org/topperformers](http://abc.org/topperformers)

**ABC Project Management Institute**



The logo features the ABC logo with an American flag motif, followed by 'Project Management Institute' in large letters and 'Associated Builders and Contractors' in smaller text below it. The background is dark with various icons related to project management.

The ABC Project Management Institute is a premier education and professional development opportunity for future project leaders. Developed by experienced project contractors and Kirk Alter, a nationally recognized subject matter expert with decades of project management experience, this course is designed specifically to meet the needs of today's contractors. [abc.org/pmi](http://abc.org/pmi)

**Excellence in Construction® Awards**



The logo features a stylized eagle with wings spread, followed by the ABC logo and 'National Excellence in Construction Awards' in large letters and 'Associated Builders and Contractors' in smaller text below it.

ABC's National Excellence in Construction Awards recognize the industry's most innovative and high-quality construction projects across the nation, as well as firms that have demonstrated industry-leading safety and diversity excellence and the Contractor of the Year. Winning contractor firms are joined at an annual black-tie awards gala by their project team—owners, architects and engineers—to celebrate these prestigious achievements. [abc.org/eic](http://abc.org/eic)

**ABC Tech Marketplace**



The logo features the ABC logo with an American flag motif, followed by 'TECH MARKETPLACE' in large letters and 'Associated Builders and Contractors' in smaller text below it.

ABC's Tech Marketplace partners provide construction technology and innovative digital solutions for ABC contractor members to advance and grow their technology strategies, offerings and abilities. These companies cover the areas of focus identified for contractor's needs and provide exclusive discounts for members. [abc.org/techmarketplace](http://abc.org/techmarketplace)

# Work With ABC Members

## ABC Members Are Committed To Building the Workforce of the Future

### Construction Management Competition

2025  
Construction  
Management  
Competition



The ABC Construction Management Competition is a hallmark competition that promotes careers in construction management. The competition is designed to challenge construction knowledge, organization, time management and presentation skills, giving the nation's top construction management students a glimpse into the real world of construction and an opportunity to showcase their talents. [abc.org/cmc](http://abc.org/cmc)

### National Student Chapter Network



The ABC National Student Chapter Network connects local ABC chapters to colleges and universities with construction-related degree programs, with the ultimate goal of building the construction management pipeline and mentoring future leaders of the construction industry. [abc.org/studentchapter](http://abc.org/studentchapter)

### National Craft Championships



ABC's annual National Craft Championships celebrate lifelong learning in the merit shop construction industry. Craft trainees from chapter and member education programs across the country compete for national recognition in more than a dozen crafts in an intense two-day competition during ABC's convention. [abc.org/ncc](http://abc.org/ncc)

### Construction Workforce Awards



2025  
Craft Professional  
of the Year

2025  
Craft Instructor  
of the Year

2025  
Young Professional  
of the Year

Each year, ABC presents the Craft Instructor of the Year, Craft Professional of the Year and Young Professional of the Year. These individuals play critical roles in shaping the future of the construction industry by highlighting construction as a meaningful lifelong career, emphasizing safe work practices and expanding education opportunities. [abc.org/cwa](http://abc.org/cwa)

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# Work With ABC Members

## ABC Members Are Committed To Leading the Industry

### Construction Executive

**CONSTRUCTION  
EXECUTIVE** 

ABC's award-winning magazine Construction Executive is the leading source for news, market developments and business issues affecting the construction industry. Designed to help readers run more profitable and productive businesses, each issue reaches more than 50,000 contractors and construction-related business owners. [constructionexec.com](http://constructionexec.com)

### The Voice of the Merit Shop

**PASSION  
AND PURPOSE,  
UNITED.**



For nearly 75 years, ABC has been the leading voice for the merit shop philosophy in construction, defending the principles of fair and open competition. ABC encourages its members to get involved with legislative, political and regulatory proposals that affect the construction industry and provides resources for members to better understand, support and voice opinions on policy. ABC's Action app is an advanced advocacy tool that enables members to become a vital part of ABC's grassroots advocacy efforts and allows members to make their voice heard. [abc.org/action](http://abc.org/action)

### ABC Business Partners



ABC members receive special pricing and member-exclusive discounts on products and services from an extensive network of ABC business partners. Discounts may apply to both employers and employees. [abc.org/discounts](http://abc.org/discounts)

### ABC Strategic Partners—Your Allies in Success



ABC's strategic partners are hand-selected to help our members win and deliver work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which ABC and its members work. Each of ABC's eight strategic partners contributes unique insights and valuable expertise on a variety of subjects and issues that affect the industry. [abc.org/strategicpartners](http://abc.org/strategicpartners)



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# Meet the Speakers



**Matthew Abeles** is vice president of construction technology and innovation for Associated Builders and Contractors. In this role, Abeles

spearheads efforts to integrate construction technology and innovation into all aspects of ABC's strategic initiatives, included but not limited to total human health, industry-leading safety and workforce development. His team provides ABC members with the annual Tech Report, Tech Marketplace and Tech Alliance.



**Michael Barker** is an operations manager with Hensel Phelps working in the Mid-Atlantic region and a previous chair of the ABC National Business

Development Committee. He has worked in construction for over 30 years and has successfully managed 15 unique projects exceeding \$1.5 billion dollars. Currently, Barker oversees multiple projects and is primarily focused on the transportation market in the Washington, D.C., region.



**Anirban Basu, Ph.D.**, is chairman and CEO of Sage Policy Group Inc., an economic and policy consulting firm in Baltimore. He is chief economist for Associated Builders

and Contractors. The Baltimore Business Journal named him one of the region's 20 most powerful business leaders in 2010. His radio show can be heard weekdays on WYPR, 88.1 FM Baltimore. Basu teaches History of Economic Thought at Goucher College as Distinguished Economist in Residence.



**Michael D. Bellaman** has served as president and chief executive officer of Associated Builders and Contractors, a national trade

association representing more than 23,000 members from 68 chapters across the United States, since 2011. In his role, Bellaman leverages the merit shop philosophy to help members develop people, win work and deliver that work safely, ethically and profitably for the betterment of the communities in which they work.



**Dan Cook** is the executive director of campus construction at The University of Texas at Austin. His team supports all design, construction, project management,

project support, contracting and construction operations, delivering improvements across the main and supported campuses. While primarily focused on the delivery of design and construction services, he also guides his team in planning and developing initiatives that support the university's strategic goals for increased effectiveness in stewardship of resources.



**Pamela N. Brink** has 30 years of experience in construction and facilities project management, with the majority of her career spent in the health care industry. Brink recently

joined MD Anderson Cancer Center as the director of capital projects and is responsible for major capital clinical projects.



**Peter Dumont** is the CEO of PrairieDog and the chief innovation and digitalization officer and managing director for AG&P. He has 30 years

of domestic and international engineering and construction experience developing and executing capital projects globally. Dumont has worked in all phases of delivery from early planning through detailed engineering, procurement, construction and maintenance on

assets up to \$30 billion in capital cost.



**James Ellis** has over 45 years of experience in international and visionary strategic leadership with DuPont, SABIC and Microsoft. He

has served in senior executive roles including corporate operations, manufacturing, engineering, technology commercialization, business development, merger and acquisitions and capital project portfolio development/execution management. Ellis is the founder and CEO of Ellisian, chair of the Construction Users Roundtable and senior executive adviser for McKinsey Co.



**Tim Elmore** is director of project services for Alkermes Inc., a global pharmaceutical development and manufacturing company. He

has spent more than 35 years in the engineering, procurement, construction and validation fields in various roles in project controls and project management. Elmore is responsible for oversight and strategic direction of the project portfolio, ensuring best value is attained while meeting financial, timeline, safety, quality and resourcing requirements.



**John Hinson** has been the Dallas Fort Worth division president of Marek Brothers Systems Inc. since 1989, playing an instrumental role in the

construction of Dallas Cowboys AT&T Stadium, American Airlines' World Headquarters, Exxon World Headquarters and numerous other high-profile projects. He is passionate about workforce safety, education and training has served on the boards of ABC's TEXO chapter and the Construction Education Foundation, among other industry associations.

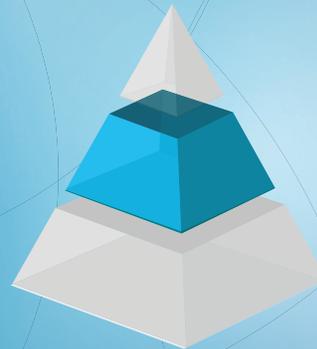
# ABC'S ROADMAP TO TOP PERFORMER RECOGNITION

3



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2



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1



STEP® is a self-assessment of your company's commitment to safety and it is the foundation of all ABC programs that recognize companies that excel in safety.

[abc.org/topperformers](http://abc.org/topperformers)

# Meet the Speakers



**Josh Kanner**, senior director of product & strategy, is responsible for the AI and analytics strategy for Oracle Construction and Engineering. He

joined Oracle upon its acquisition of Newmetrix, the AI-powered safety risk analytics software provider that he founded and led as CEO. Prior to Newmetrix, he was co-founder of Vela Systems, a pioneer in the use of web and tablet workflows for construction and capital projects.



**Bryan Ledbetter** is director of IT at Robins & Morton, a Birmingham, Alabama-based construction company, with over two decades of

experience in construction technology. He leads projects in cybersecurity, building information modeling, data science and field technology. Ledbetter aligns business strategy with cybersecurity, ensuring the protection of digital assets while enhancing operations and projects.



**Ed Luckenbach** is a project manager at Universal Industrial Gases, a subsidiary of Nucor Steel. He previously worked at Air Products and Chemicals and

was the manager of construction and commissioning. Luckenbach has spent more than 32 years in industrial gas plant engineering, design, and construction, and his career includes project, construction and commissioning management. His passion is promoting craft health and safety, project leadership and collaborating with contractors who wish to make projects successful.



**James McGehee** is an associate in Littler Mendelson PC's Dallas office. He represents and advises employers on all aspects of

labor and employment law. He previously served as a captain and judge advocate in the U.S. Air Force, where his duties included advising the Joint Artificial Intelligence Center in partnership with the Air Force-MIT Artificial Intelligence Accelerator.



**Timothy Mongeau**, ABC director of workforce development, supports ABC's 68-chapter network of more than 800 apprenticeship,

craft, safety and construction management education programs across the country. He has more than 20 years of experience designing and implementing construction education programs at Zachry Industrial and BE&K Construction Co. Previous to his construction career, Mongeau served 11 years active duty and two years in the U.S. Navy Reserve.



**Jeff Mullins** is a partner at Taft and practices in the areas of health care, construction and labor and employment law.

He has spent more than 25 years building a successful practice by providing private and public organizations with creative, practical and proactive advice on how to run a successful operation while complying with a myriad of complex legal requirements.



As the leader of Diverge, a Hensel Phelps innovation entity, **Thai Nguyen** is pioneering a new approach to sourcing, evaluating and deploying disruptive solutions for the construction industry.

With more than 20 years of experience in the architectural and construction industries, his vision is to leverage technology and collaboration while empowering Hensel Phelps to innovate the industry and build the future.



**James Oertling** has spent the last 14 years with Travelers as an account executive director in the Private Nonprofit Management Liability Group. He is the

resident expert for cyber insurance for the South Central Region, which includes all of Louisiana and Texas. In this role, Oertling helps the national cyber team develop underwriter strategies for the entire country and work with local underwriters on implementing these underwriting strategies.



**Anne Ramsey** began her career with P&G in 1999 as a facilities technology leader. She enjoys building capability holistically and sustainably, so that people,

processes, systems, facilities and the environment are better for years to come. Ramsey approaches projects as a collaborator and an architect of building networks to connect the right people at the right time, driving innovation that is purposeful. She is a leader who communicates transparently—earning the respect of peers, partners and vendors.



**Pascal Ray** is the CEO and co-founder of Blu Clarity PBC, a B corporation operating in the insurance industry. Blu Clarity is dedicated to promoting insurance

as a force for good, focusing on sustainable construction and energy infrastructure initiatives. Ray works with insurance providers in the United States, Lloyd's of London, European insurers and Bermudian carriers to develop helpful risk solutions.



**Kevin Sell** is CVO of United Group Services, a Cincinnati industrial construction firm that works throughout the country. He also provides corporate oversight for Elite Welding Academy,

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Visit [abc.org/strategicpartners](http://abc.org/strategicpartners) to discover the many ways ABC's strategic partners help members succeed.



# Meet the Speakers

Core Crew, PMS and Innovative Mechanical Services. Sell also serves as a U.S. Department of Labor special government employee.



**Josh Shaw** has over 25 years of construction experience in the United States and internationally. As an associate director in the

Office of Planning, Design and Construction, he focuses on executing construction across the Smithsonian Institution. Shaw is responsible for the construction management of all the Smithsonian's capital and large maintenance projects worldwide while leading multidisciplinary teams to drive operational effectiveness.



**Kenneth Sullivan**, Ph.D., is a professor in the School of Sustainable Engineering and the Built Environment at Arizona State University, teaching

advances in construction delivery and innovation. He specializes in construction delivery approaches, best value procurement, performance and risk measurement and organizational transformation. He has helped Fortune 500 companies and public organizations transform their construction services, including the city of Los Angeles, Google and Georgia-Pacific.



FBI Supervisory Special Agent **Chris Thompson** has 20 years of experience investigating all variations of cybercrime, including cybercriminal

activity, national security matters and violent crimes against children. He is the supervisor of the Dallas office's Cyber Criminal Program and Cyber Task Force. Thompson has been assigned to the cyber investigative program his entire career, focusing on national security computer

intrusions, advanced persistent threats, ransomware/malware attacks, organized cybercriminal activity and online crimes against children.



**Aaron Vorwerk** leads business development efforts with architects and owners at Egnyte. Throughout his career, Vorwerk has advised design and

construction professionals on project lifecycle strategy and workflows through roles in practice, consulting, technical sales and marketing. He holds advanced degrees in architecture and engineering; has wide-ranging experience in architecture, engineering and construction; and has led BIM implementations in two design firms.



**Barbara Wagner** is an executive vice president with Clark Construction Group and oversees the company's national health care sector. She has over 40

years of experience in construction and holds a contractor and engineer's license in the state of California, is a DBIA Fellow and has LEED accreditation.



**Cassidy Welch** is the key account manager for EPC Partnerships Region North America for BASF Corp. Previously, he served as the global category buyer

for engineering services for BASF's Region US. Welch started his career at Black Hills Power in Gillette, Wyoming, where he was the procurement manager for a series of power generation projects.

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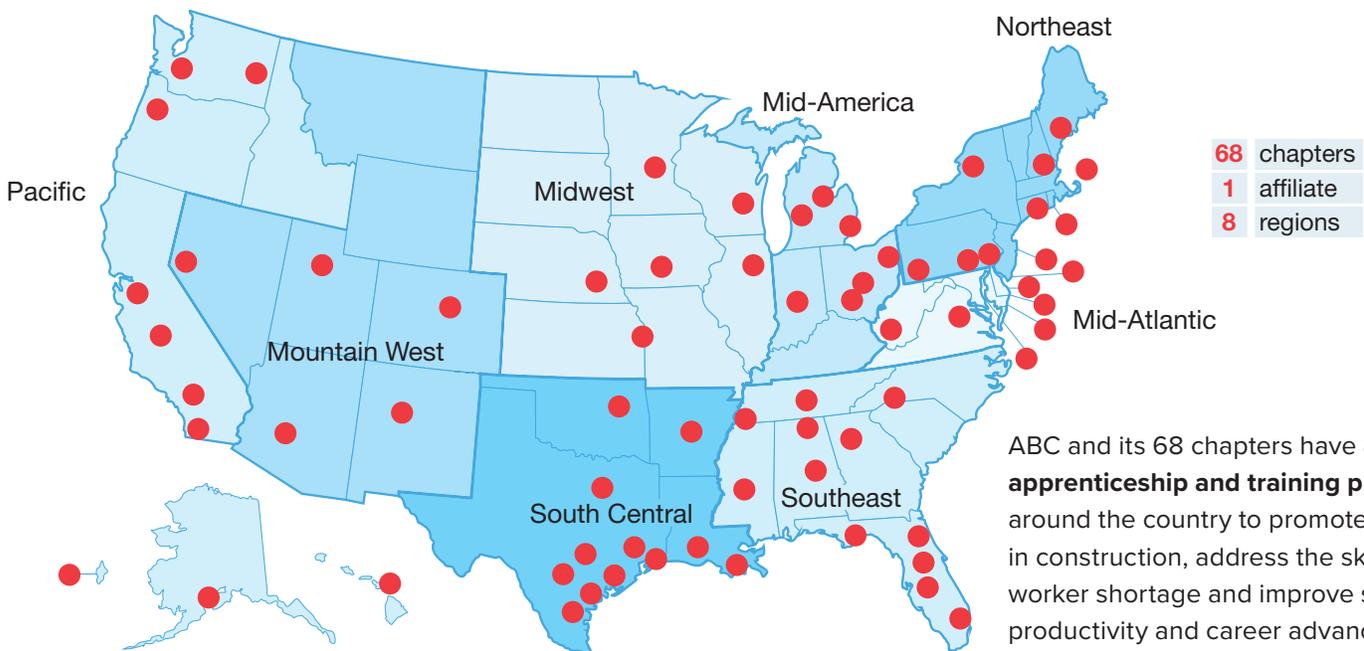
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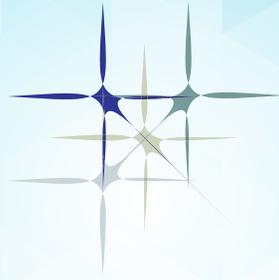
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