CM Float Earns Tenth First-Place Award

This year will be marked as the tenth in a row that a float entry from the CM program has earned a first place award in the Homecoming parade. This year’s entry showcased the theme of “100 Years of Homecoming” with two scenes, one depicting the agricultural focus of the University into the 1950’s and the other showcasing the advance of technology into the tools we use today. Costumes, props, and smiling faces added the perfect touches to a rolling scene of “then vs. now.” Congratulations to the students for their work in keeping the streak alive, and thanks to the faculty and staff involved who helped bring it all together.

Elliott Part of $10 Million Grant

CM faculty member Jon Elliott is representing CSU in a project funded by a $10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Labor as part of the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training grant program. The project is titled Florida Training for Manufactured Construction Consortium and the lead institution is Miami Dade College Kendall Campus in Florida in partnership with the University of Florida, University of Wisconsin-Stout, and Colorado State University.

The work performed under this grant will provide a program of skills, training, and education specially designed for the manufactured construction industry, which is rapidly growing due to the significant lack of on-site construction workers. The industry, however, also lacks training programs to effectively equip employees. This new program will be designed to address this deficiency by providing a complete system of nationally recognized certification programs tied to existing manufacturing technology and CM programs as well as two-year and four-year degree programs offered at Florida’s state colleges and universities.

This grant is one of $450 million in job-driven training grants awarded to nearly 270 community colleges across the country. The goal is to provide eligible higher education institutions with funds to partner with employers and improve their ability to deliver career training programs that assist job seekers with obtaining the necessary skills for in-demand jobs.
Student Attends Rising CM Conference

When faculty member Mehmet Ozbek approached Jordan Coughenour, a CM junior, with the opportunity to attend the Construction Management Association of America’s national conference, he knew his only response could be, “Yes!” Held this year in San Francisco, Calif., the CMAA National Conference and Trade Show offers educational and networking opportunities for construction professionals in all sectors of the industry. The event includes a conference dedicated to Construction Managers in Training, or CMITs, and students in CM programs and is designed to help them successfully launch their careers.

“The opportunity to attend a conference like this and to network with highly esteemed individuals in the construction industry was invaluable to my personal career development,” said Coughenour. He attended sessions that covered topics ranging from how to advance in the CM career field to technology leadership. Every session, according to Coughenour, provided valuable tools for him as he continues to hone his skills in the classroom and progress into his career upon graduation.

“I would like to thank Larry Gallegos and the Colorado chapter of CMAA for sponsoring me to attend this conference, and to Dr. Ozbek for extending the opportunity to me. Being able to learn from CEOs of leading companies, and hearing what matters and makes a difference in a young person’s career, will add greatly to my education in the construction industry.”

CMAA Hosts Panel of Recent Grads

On Monday, October 13, the Construction Management Association of America, or CMAA, student chapter hosted three recent graduates of the CM program to speak about their experiences so far in the construction industry. Steve Kenyon (‘14), a field engineer with Mortenson Construction, Kyle Snow (‘13), a field engineer with PCL Construction Services, and Cory Borel (‘13), an estimator with URS, attended and answered the questions posed by current students of the program. “Students were able to easily identify with the members of the panel because of their status as recent students and asked questions they may not feel comfortable asking the typical CM guest speaker,” said Sean Howell, president of CMAA student chapter.

Each panelist talked about the projects they’re currently working on, things they like about their jobs, their perspective on working in the field vs. working in the office, and plenty of other topics. The event was designed to be open-ended and the panelists built on each other’s answers to questions. “This was a great success and the CMAA chapter plans on hosting a similar event each year,” said Howell.

Brazilian Students Interface with CSU

Students in CON 562, Issues and Trends in Construction Management, connected with students halfway around the globe via video conference to discuss research projects underway in their program. Students at the University of Pernambuco in Recife, Brazil, shared their work with the help of Dr. Emilia Rabbani, an instructor at the institution who recently visited CSU’s campus as part of a partnership between Pernambuco and CSU.
Khattab Named to ACCE Board of Trustees

At the American Council for Construction Education’s 2014 annual meeting, CM department head Mostafa Khattab was elected to the Board of Trustees as an Educator Trustee for a term of three years. Elected annually, the Board is composed of representatives of ACCE member associations, educators, the public at large, the industry at large, and the ACCE executive vice president, ex-officio. This esteemed group carries out the final authority of ACCE and provides guidance, planning, and oversight of ACCE’s mission to be a leading global advocate of quality construction education and to promote, support, and accredit quality construction education programs.

“We want to welcome Dr. Khattab to the Board and thank him for his willingness to serve in this capacity, helping to lead ACCE into the future,” said John Gaver, ACCE Board Chair. “ACCE continues to be a successful leader in the construction education field in part because of the support by our volunteers, giving of their time and talents and many, many hours in carrying out the mission and goals.”

CSU’s CM program is accredited by ACCE, meaning that the department has met stringent industry standards of content and quality, providing a quality education to students that enables them to perform a broad range of professional responsibilities. The program performs periodic self-evaluations to keep current with emerging technologies and requirements of the construction industry.

Valdes-Vasquez Attends AASHE Conference

Thanks to the grant awarded by the School of Global Environmental Sustainability at CSU last month, faculty member Rodolfo Valdes-Vasquez travelled to Portland, Ore., October 26-29 to attend the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability in Higher Education annual conference to discover methods of developing course material related to sustainable construction. The conference hosted workshops, lectures, and research posters related to topics that guide instructors on integrating sustainability into courses at colleges and universities.

“As a faculty member, I was impressed by the commitment of students to improve sustainability across campuses,” said Valdes-Vasquez. “It was not only an opportunity to network with academic colleagues from across the nation, but also with industry members from design and construction firms.”

Valdes-Vasquez is working to have CON 476, Sustainable Practices in Design and Construction, endorsed by SoGES in the near future.

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