

## **SAFETY PROFESSIONAL OF THE YEAR: Tim Barberet**

O&G Industries, Inc. nominates Tim Barberet for AGC's Safety Manager of the Year award.

Tim has worked for O&G for six years, serving as Safety Director for the last three years. In this role, he has brought tremendous progress to the company's safety program across all divisions. Overseeing varied divisions requires a leader who is versatile and able to deal with OSHA and MSHA. Tim is strategic and tactical in implementing new safety programs in all fixed locations and project sites. The programs he has put into place have lowered the incident rate and increased productivity companywide.

Tim implemented a new software system that, through real-time data analysis, allows him to identify improvement opportunities and strengths by business unit, region, project, and team. He leverages this data to set specific safety goals for the company.

Tim created a partnership with CT OSHA, inviting them to perform quarterly inspections of the Torrington Middle High School and Farmington High School project sites. This partnership allows the safety team to identify improvement opportunities and incorporate best practices while fostering a robust relationship with the agency.

Tim is a people-focused manager. He genuinely cares about the safety of every person in every facility and on every job. He is a true leader and consistently inspires the safety culture among his team, O&G employees, and subcontractors. He is compassionate, understanding, and supportive. To his credit, in the past year there has been a renewed focus on mental health in the workplace, and the safety team has performed suicide prevention standdowns where appropriate. Tim deserves this award because his unwavering commitment to set the bar higher than baseline expectations when it comes to safety program development, personnel training, and audits, creating conditions for people to do their job well in a safe, healthy, and mentally fit environment.

Tim earned his degree in Occupational Safety from Keene State College. He is a licensed Construction Health and Safety Technician by the Board of Certified Safety Professionals. Tim serves on the CBIA Safety Board and participates in the monthly AGCCT safety roundtable meetings.

For all these reasons, it is an honor to nominate Tim Barberet for the AGCCT Safety Professional of the Year.

## **DESIGNER OF THE YEAR: Randall Luther, Principal, TSKP**

O&G Industries, Inc. nominates Randall Luther, AIA, NCARB, Partner, TSKP Studio, for AGC Designer of the Year.

Randall is passionate about restoring the dignity of civic architecture, which includes schools. He is committed to leveraging sustainable principles wherever possible and has recently made an indelible mark on the Connecticut public school landscape with his designs for several Manchester schools.

O&G Industries' Building Group has built five Luther-designed schools, including the multiple award-winning Buckley Elementary School, Connecticut's first net-zero school, which will be certified net zero by January 2024. O&G is currently renovating-as-new two additional Manchester elementary schools, designed by Randall. All these projects are far-reaching for the environment, Manchester's bottom line, for the learning experience for present and future students, and are sure to be an example for those who choose to emulate these buildings.

The undertaking to renovate three existing schools to net-zero had a steep learning curve for all involved, especially for Randall who spent months working with engineers and his team to come up with a schematic design that would satisfy net-zero requirements. His focus on using energy and resources efficiently and using and promoting the use of renewable energy is admirable. He has proven that with vision and focus, achieving sustainable design is no longer as difficult as before, and that architecture contributes to nature and to society.

O&G's project teams – from preconstruction to field – agree that Randall is fair and easy to work with. With an accomplished career spanning nearly four decades, he is an experienced and thoughtful project partner. His designs are transformational and always focused on the goals and inspirations of each of his clients. He is known for his careful analysis, being adaptable, and his willingness to adjust his designs based on current market trends or the owner's needs. Randall listens attentively, takes advice from project partners, and always advises his clients in the best interest of the project.

Randall earned his Bachelor of Architecture from Syracuse University, where he also earned degrees in Mathematics and Philosophy. He presented on net-zero school projects to the AIA CT in 2021 and his interest in sustainability can be dated back to the early two thousands when he presented to the Southern New England American Planning Association on the merits of integrating sustainability into public spaces.

## **SUPERVISOR OF THE YEAR: Brian Pracuta**

O&G Industries, Inc. nominates Brian Pracuta for AGC's Project Supervisor of the Year award.

Brian started in the industry right out of high school, graduating from Henry Abbott Regional Vocational Technical School's carpentry department, where he earned the "Best Craftsman Award." He has been with O&G for nearly 20 years.

When he started with the company, he mainly performed concrete work before becoming a superintendent. In his two decades with the company, he has worked on projects with very exacting requirements such as the \$87.3M, 150,000SF, Beman Middle School in Middletown which was built to LEED Silver standards; the \$82.5M, 143,000SF New Fairfield High School, and his current project, the \$159M Torrington Middle High School – one of the largest, and most transformative school jobs in Connecticut right now at 310,000 SQFT. This school is being constructed in three phases with an aggressive timeline for completion of winter 2024.

The sheer size of the Torrington Middle High School has been a welcome challenge for Brian. Here, he specializes in building envelope and MEP coordination while directing a workforce that reaches upwards of 200 workers per day. Even on a project of this size, his attention to detail goes above and beyond the typical supervisor, as his job site is clean and organized, resulting in a shared safety culture with everyone involved.

Brian's experience as a working carpenter and carpenter foreman provides a solid foundation for his ability to understand the mechanics of planning and executing work activities. As a construction manager supervisor, he uses that experience to develop relationships with jobsite foremen.

On a grander scale, Brian's experience allows him to be involved in the planning phases of the project, developing logistics and schedules. Along with these skills, he is also well-written, articulate and communicates effectively with the design team, and can provide proposed solutions with an understanding of the design intent. His experience and industry knowledge run deep, interpreting what the designers may require when contemplating alternative proposed solutions and providing feedback when designs need to be revised. He also has an extraordinary ability to relay real-time issues to the design team.

Dan Hetzler, project manager for the Torrington Middle High School project, spoke about Brian's willingness to go the extra mile to get the job done. "There are many evenings when I hear my computer chime, alerting me that Brian is uploading daily progress photos; photos that keep me and many other stakeholders aware of issues and progress. This real-time reporting is incredibly important to me, saving discussion time and making it much easier to identify and correct issues that could impede or require work to be redone."

Brian has become a mentor for many, from tradespeople to colleagues and even students. On each of his jobs, he has been heavily involved in the O&G Builds program, an experiential learning program in which high school students learn hands-on about the active project site and careers in construction.

But, what might matter most is that he cares. Brian cares about workmanship and is especially attentive to his clients, spending the extra time sharing his thoughts with them and educating them on what it takes to deliver the project.

For all these reasons and more, it is an honor to nominate Brian Pracuta for the AGCCT Supervisor of the Year.

**PUBLIC OWNER OF THE YEAR: Chris Till, Facilities Project Manager, Town of Manchester**

O&G Industries, Inc. nominates Chris Till, Facilities Project Manager, Town of Manchester, for Project Owner of the Year. Under Chris ' direction, O&G's Building Group recently completed the multiple award-winning Buckley Elementary School, Connecticut's first net-zero school. Two other Manchester elementary schools – Bowers and Keeney – are in progress, also overseen by Chris.

For some, improving the sustainability of buildings and facilities feels overwhelming but Chris made this seem like second nature. He is conscious of the ways the world has emphasized and embraced sustainability and lowering energy consumption. While renovating three existing schools to net-zero standards had a steep learning curve for all involved, Chris demonstrated tremendous leadership. He applied for and received State grants and Eversource grants for solar to offset town costs for green building initiatives for both the Buckley and Bowers projects.

Chris worked tirelessly to ensure the greatest return on investment for every tax dollar spent on these projects. He's budget-sensitive and throughout the building process he was mindful of market trends and budgets.

Technically astute, Chris knows the building business as an owner, designer, and contractor. Those at O&G who have enjoyed working on projects with Chris say he has been incredibly instrumental in the success of these projects, fostering a great team dynamic. He always gives clear direction to his team but is willing to listen and is open to advice and opinions from others. He is an engaged owner but not overbearing. O&G applauds him for not only managing his front-facing job, but understands his attention to behind-the-scenes tasks is also a significant part of his role.

Managing diverse responsibilities and staff is a hallmark of facility management leadership. It is evident that Chris' communication style, organizational skills, and bench of knowledge with local, State and Federal codes has undoubtedly been of great value to the Town, Board of Education, boards and commissions, architects, engineers, and contractors working to create a better tomorrow through Manchester's built environment.

Chris earned his degree in Civil Engineering at Tufts University and his Masters in Environmental and Water Resources Engineering at the University of Michigan. In his 30-year career, Chris has worked in the construction industry in some capacity. He has been Facilities Project Manager for the Town of Manchester for 15 years.

## **PROJECT MANAGER OF THE YEAR: Joe Vetro**

O&G Industries, Inc. nominates Joe Vetro for AGC's Project Manager of the Year award.

Joe has been in the industry for nearly 30 years, with 25 of those years at O&G.

One of the most significant examples of Joe's tenacity and willingness to do whatever it takes to get the job done is the challenge he overcame with COVID lockdown issues during the new construction of the \$87.3M 150,000SF, Beman Middle School in Middletown which was built to LEED Silver standards. The first of three phases of structural steel began in March 2020 with a steel manufacturer from New York. Three weeks later, the State of New York locked down all non-essential workers, which included construction and manufacturing – and the steel manufacturer, who had just begun fabrication for phase two. Joe rallied the structural engineer, members of the building committee, and the Mayor of Middletown to draft a letter to Governor Lamont explaining how leaving the structure partially erected posed safety issues. Gov. Lamont took the matter to Gov. Cuomo. As a result, in early April, the steel manufacturer was granted an exception and allowed to partially open to finish the job. Despite the hurdles placed by COVID, Joe and his team completed the school on schedule.

During his 25-year tenure at O&G, Joe has managed an impressive 18 projects, rivaling many project managers in the State. His resume with the company includes some of the largest and most challenging projects such as his current project – the \$82.5M, 143,000SF New Fairfield High School, which will open to students in early 2024. Also, the Connecticut DOT's \$83.4M, 276,000SF Waterbury Bus Maintenance Facility and the \$77M, 325,000SF Naugatuck High School addition and renovations performed while the school was occupied.

Joe's colleagues describe him in one word - tenacious. He will go to great lengths to move jobs forward, always mindful of the client's best interests and O&G. He is an asset to the company and makes each job even better than the last. With his famous words, "I treat your money like it's my money," Joe has made a reputation with project owners for being incredibly budget-sensitive.

Those who have worked in the field with him say he is one of the hardest working people and that his dedication, energy, and the support he provides for the entire team are keys to the success of every project he manages. When Joe talks, people listen. He is a trusted advisor who is always willing to listen and work issues out as a team player.

For all these reasons and more, it is an honor to nominate Joe Vetro for the AGC CT Project Manager of the Year.