18th Annual Utah Building Industry Conference

Friday, October 6, 2023

Dixie Technical College

**Morning Keynote Speaker** – Zach Renstrom, Washington County Water Conservancy District

**Title** – ***Water: Can’t Live (or grow) Without It***

We live in one of the nation's fastest growing areas and are currently dependent on a single, variable water supply that is almost fully developed. So where will the water come from for your next home? Find out in this class.

**Bio** - **Zach Renstrom** is the general manager for the Washington County Water Conservancy District. In this capacity, he oversees all operational and financial activities for the district and its employees.

Prior to joining the district in 2019, Renstrom served as a Washington County Commissioner and worked as an attorney for Lincoln, Gustafson & Cercos. Renstrom was also a principal owner at a local engineering firm. He is a licensed professional and structural engineer in Utah with more than 20 years of experience; and a member of the Utah and Nevada state bars with more than 15 years of experience. His background gives him insight into the complexities of water treatment and engineering systems, as well as the legal realm of government, contracts, water law and legislation.

He has served on the following boards: Washington County Flood Control Authority, American Public Works Association, Dixie Transportation Executive Council, Utah Department of Transportation, Utah Office of Tourism Development, and the Tuacahn Center for the Arts. Renstrom is a graduate of the University of Utah and Washburn Law School.

**Afternoon Keynote Speakers –** Jim Bolser, St George City; Mayor Chris Hart, Ivins City; City Representative, Santa Clara City; Mayor Kress Staheli, Washington City; Mayor Nannette Billings, Hurricane City

**Title** – ***“State of the City Address”***

These are unique and challenging times for many people, come hear from our community leaders on how they are adapting and addressing the needs of local residents.

**Bios -**

**Jim Bolser, Community Development Director, St George City -**

 Bolser spent 11 years as Director of Community Development in Tooele City. He was tasked with the oversight, supervision and management of the department’s planning, code enforcement, building, inspections, business licensing and engineering divisions. While in Tooele, he also served a significant amount of time as the Director of Public Works and the Emergency Management Officer. Previously, Bolser was the Senior Planner and Zoning Administrator of Draper City Corporation for over six years and spent five years as the Regional and Community Planner at the Mountainland Association of Governments in Orem. Bolser attended the University of Utah where he earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Geography, with an emphasis on urban planning.

**Mayor Chris Hart, Ivins City** - Chris Hart is a native Utahn growing up in Logan and eventually attending high school and the University of Utah in Salt Lake City. After marrying his wife Sandy in 1972 his family moved to Ammon, Idaho on the outskirts of Idaho Falls where they lived for the next twenty-five years. There he launched Signature Enterprises Inc., a successful land development and home building business that operated across much of Eastern Idaho. Chris was active in the Bonneville County Home Builders Association and served as its President for a year. He and Sandy most importantly raised their four sons Brandon, David, Shawn, and Jordan there. Growing weary of the long winters Chris and his siblings created a land development company in the St. George area after acquiring prime development property in Ivins City near Tuacahn. Chris became active in city government and in the Southern Utah Home Builders Association eventually becoming President of the Utah State Home Builders Association. After serving on various development ordinance review committees Chris was eventually appointed to the Ivins City Planning Commission and from there to the Ivins City Council. He was elected Ivins City Mayor in 2009 and has served in that capacity since. Ivins City has undergone remarkable changes during his administration including the Southern Utah Veterans Home, Sentierre, a five-star world class resort being built next to Tuacahn, Rocky Vista University College of Osteopathic Medicine Southern Utah Campus, and Black Desert Resort, home to both PGA and LPGA tour events beginning next year all choosing to locate there. His service as Ivins City Mayor has been one of the highlights of his life experience. In addition to his lovely wife Sandy and their four sons, four beautiful daughters-in-law have been added to his family along with sixteen going on eighteen wonderful grandchildren.

**City Representative, Santa Clara City -**

**Mayor Kress Staheli, Washington City -** Kress Staheli was born and raised in Washington City, Utah as the youngest of four boys. He graduated from Pine View High School and later from Southern Utah University with a degree in Accounting. He served 8 years in the Utah Army National Guard and 2 years as a missionary in France. He currently works as an Insurance and Financial Services agent and has done so for over 20 years with the same company. He and his wife Lynette are the parents of a son and three daughters. They enjoy many of the outdoor, sporting, and cultural activities this area has to offer. Kress particularly enjoys traveling and is an avid marathon runner. Mayor Staheli loves this community and is committed to representing the best interests of Washington City and all who live here. He believes in listening to residents and understanding their concerns and views so that he can do his best to properly address them. He appreciates the heritage of hard work and commitment it took to settle this desert community. He welcomes new and long-term residents to be involved in making Washington City even better as we grow together. He’s the Mayor of the #1 small city in America to start a business!

**Mayor Nannette Billings, Hurricane City -**Nanette Billings was born in St George and raised in Hurricane until age 10. Her family moved to Monroe Utah where she graduated from South Sevier High School. Then graduated from SUU in Cedar City. She wed her high school sweetheart Willie Billings and they have now been married 36 years. They have five children and six cute grandchildren. She moved back to Hurricane after college, in 1991 and has lived there since. She has been extremely involved in her community. She has given of her time by coaching basketball, soccer and serving on the Little League Board for 13 years, Helping with the Tri State ATV Club, and as a leader in Boy Scouts for 10 years. She has been the director of the Hurricane City Christmas Tree Festival.  She’s held many Leadership callings with her church, helping youth and adults. She has served as Republican precinct chairwoman and a member of the Hurricane City Council and now Mayor of Hurricane City. Where she’s passionate about representing citizens, upholding, defending the constitution, and helping families thrive in Hurricane City.

**Breakout Sessions – 16 Classes**

**Instructor** – Robert Jensen, RJLaw, PC

**Title – *Construction Contracts, You Write the Law (Construction Standards & Building Code)***

In this class we will review your construction contract and help you build a better one. We will consider the IRC/IBC code standards, industry standards, and the standards enforceable at court. You will develop a better idea of the required construction standards and contract provisions that will help you be a better builder and run a better business.

**Bio - Robert Jensen** was raised in Southern Utah, worked in his family’s construction business, and put himself through undergraduate and law school pouring concrete. He has developed a reputable construction, business, and real estate law practice, customizing contracts, negotiating transactions, and successfully prosecuting contracts, liens, bonds, and other claims. Robert lectures regularly and works with businesses from formation through complex transactions and litigation.  Robert has been recognized several times as one of “Utah’s Legal Elite,” in the areas of Construction, Contracts, and Real Estate.

**Instructor** – Ken Adams (2 Energy Classes)

**Title – *Energy Efficiency, Energy Code***

* Review the significant changes to the Residential Energy Code. Know the requirements for building envelopes and why they are so important in today’s building industry.
* Review of current energy code with Utah state amendments and the (5) five pathways to meet code.
* Seal it tight and ventilate it right. There are some incredible new products on the market with a relatively low cost that can make a big difference in the energy efficiency of your buildings, new or existing.
* Reviewing energy code and potential significant changes to energy code for 2024.

**Bio - Ken Adams** has been in the construction industry for the past 25+ years. He worked for Mountain Fuel (Questar Gas, now Dominion Energy) while earning his construction management degree at Utah Valley University. In 2001 he moved to South Carolina and worked on single and multi-family housing developments in Land Development and Production. In 2006 Paul Magleby convinced him to move back to Utah as a Division Manager at Magleby Construction, where he obtained his B100 license. He has been heavily involved in the NAHB and served on the Board of Directors at the SLHBA and National Green Committee. He finished up his MBA at the University of Utah in 2011 and left Magleby Construction in 2013. Since then, he has been teaching in the Construction Technologies Department at UVU and teaching Pre-licensing and continuing education classes for contractors.

**Instructor** – Nathan Fisher & Dave Hunter, Fisher & Hunter, LLC

**Title – *Risk is Just an Expensive Substitute for Information***

In this class we will discuss contract provisions and procedures to move you up on the priority list for payment when the market slows, and the money tightens.

 **Bio** – **Nathan K. Fisher** has been practicing law in Southern Utah since 1997. He concentrates his practice in the areas of construction law, commercial real estate, and real estate development. Nathan received a bachelor’s degree in business management from Brigham Young University. He received his Juris Doctor degree from the J. Reuben Clark Law School, where he graduated Cum Laude in the top twenty percent of his class. He began his legal career with a small litigation firm in Provo, Utah, where he developed a civil litigation practice.  Nathan is admitted to the United States District Court, District of Utah, and District of Nevada. He is currently a Judge Pro Tempore in the Fifth Judicial District, Small Claims Court in St. George, Utah.  Nathan has also acted as a mediator and arbitrator in several matters. Mr. Fisher is a member of the Utah State Bar, the Southern Utah Bar Association, and the State Bar of Nevada. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Southern Utah Home Builders Association where he presents seminars that include Utah and Nevada mechanics lien laws and collecting unpaid services.

**Bio** – **David Hunter’s** practice primarily focuses on commercial litigation, real estate development and business formation and growth.  His commercial litigation practice includes construction defect defense, construction law, mechanic’s liens, contract litigation, collections law, and boundary disputes.  His real estate development practice includes purchase and sale transactions, CC&R’s, foreclosures and restructuring, lease agreements, and development agreements.  His business growth and development work include business entity formation and exit strategies, general counsel services, drafting contracts, employment agreements and other business support. Prior to law school, David worked for a construction supplier, sold real estate and was a real estate appraiser.  David attended Southern Utah University earning a degree in business management with an emphasis in accounting.  David graduated from California Wester School of Law in 2003 and has been practicing in St. George since 2004.

**Instructor –** Telly Longhurst

**Title –** ***Gain the Tools You Need to Control Your Workers Compensation Costs***

How to control your workers’ compensation premiums even if you have claims. There is a huge disconnect with employers and how workers compensation/The NCCI work. By understanding how it works, you can start to have more control over your premiums and keep your business safe.

**Bio** – **Telly Longhurst** is a people person and enjoys connecting to those he meets on a real level. He works hard to understand his clients’ needs and offer solutions. His goal is to be an asset and extension to someone’s business, not just an agent that shows up once a year for an insurance check, especially when it comes to workers compensation. Telly has studied workers’ compensation extensively and knows how to help it be an advantage to both an employer and their employees. A Logan, Utah, native, Telly and his wife have one daughter and three sons. They enjoy their time together, skiing nearly every Saturday in the winter and traveling as much as possible the rest of the year in their motorhome. They’ve taught their children the core value of being kind – life is all about the relationships we create.

**Instructor –** Todd Feltner and Koden Hunt, Hinton Burdick CPA’s & Advisors

**Title** – ***Contractors Navigating the Ever-Changing Tax Landscape – Planning and Preparing***

We will be discussing current and future tax implications for Construction businesses and individuals due to new and existing legislation, as well as entity structure, tax planning and tax credits.

**Bio** **– Todd Feltner** began working for HintonBurdick CPAs and Advisors in 1998 after graduating with his Master’s degree in accounting from Southern Utah University.  He has been a partner at HintonBurdick for 16 years and has extensive experience in compiled and reviewed financial statement preparation, especially in the construction industry.  Todd also works closely with the firm’s advisory committee, which assists clients with their accounting systems and business consulting needs.  He has experience in new business organization as well as business and individual income tax preparation in a variety of industries including hospitality and construction.  Todd is married to the lovely Jennifer Feltner and has four sons and a daughter.  He is also a proud Grandpa and is more than happy to show pictures.

**Bio – Koden Hunt,** CPA, began working for HintonBurdick CPA’ and Advisors in 2021. He graduated with a Master’s degree in accounting from Dixie State University where he was also the UACPA Student of the Year. Since he has been with HintonBurdick, he has worked with contractors and has experience with helping contractors with business and individual income tax preparation and reviewing financial statements. Koden grew up in Enterprise, Utah where he returns often helping out on the farm. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two kids and playing sports.

**Instructor** – Dan Arnoldson, WCF Insurance

**Title** – ***Human Performance – Safety & Behaviors***

Human Performance is not just about safety, it can be used for improving all areas of performance. The most successful organizations use Human Performance for all areas of performance. Human performance is a science that includes understanding human error and how to manage that error and behaviors.

**Bio** – **Dan Arnoldson**

* Certified Safety Professional (CSP)
* Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH)
* Over 15 years of experience in occupational safety and health
* Safety expertise in the heavy highway, construction, mining, and transportation sectors
* Provide specialized consultation in human performance and industrial hygiene.
* BS Degree from Utah State University

**Instructor –** Greg Bates, West Fraser

**Title – *Framing Knowledge You Can Build On***

This course highlights what you need to know about framing with plywood and OSB. Learn proper installation requirements and how to prevent costly callbacks. Understand how engineered wood products are made and their impact on the environment. Also, know where to find information and resources for your construction projects.

**Bio - Greg Bates** is a Field Marketing Manager for West Fraser where he promotes engineered wood panels in the Southwest region throughout the distribution channel. For the nine years prior to joining West Fraser, he was with APA where he worked with builders, framers, designers, and code officials for the practical implementation of framing products and building codes in the ﬁeld. He has been a speaker at the International Builders Show on the topics of building codes, moisture intrusion, and framing practices.

**Instructor** – Ross Ford, Utah HBA Executive Officer

**Title – *Lets Talk About Change, Building Code Amendments***

This class will present up to date changes to the Residential Building Code that went into effect on July 1, 2023.

**Bio – Ross Ford** has been a general contractor since 1985. He started as a framing contractor where he was involved with many types of construction; to include simple starter homes, multifamily, commercial, and high-end custom homes. He started a cabinet mill that specialized in high end residential and commercial serving clients like Disney, Bloomingdales, The Gap, Macy’s, LDS temples and resorts. Ross sold his company and accepted a position with UVU. He performed a number of jobs over a 7-year period concluding with CTE director. After leaving UVU Ross was appointed by the Governor to serve as the Associate Director for DOPL to oversee construction related licensing. He currently represents The Home Builders Association of Utah as the executive vice president.

**Instructor –** Erik Sorenson, Sorenson Marketing Communications

**Title – *Digital Domination – Building A Recession Proof Personal Brand***

Learn how to unlock your true potential and rise above your limitations and achieve the impossible by building a unique personal brand.

**Bio - Erik Sorenson** is a dynamic and accomplished speaker, entrepreneur, podcaster, author, and marketer. With a career spanning over two decades, Erik has established himself as an expert in the advertising industry, having worked with several Fortune 500 and 1000 clients like Walt Disney, TDS Telecom, Gold’s Gym, The FBI, the US Air Force, Kia Motors, MaxxSouth Broadband, USA Communications, Rio Alto, and JF Capital, to name a few. But Erik's impact extends far beyond the corporate world. He's a firm believer in empowering business owners to unlock their true potential, and his speaking, training, and coaching platform is a testament to this. With his passion for helping others, Erik inspires and motivates business owners to rise above their limitations and achieve their impossible. Erik is also a prolific author, having co-authored two best-selling books and his latest, Commit First, which was released on May 11th, 2023. When Erik is not busy conquering the business world, he prioritizes his family and personal pursuits. He's a proud father and husband, a serial entrepreneur, marathon runner, IRONMAN™ triathlete, and an instrument-rated pilot. In everything he does, Erik strives to push the limits and be the best version of himself.

**Instructor –** Jordan Merrill, Intermountain Healthcare

**Title - *Save a Life - Preventing Opioid Overdoses and Identifying Suicide Risk Behavior***

Learn about the signs of opioid use and suicide risk and strategies to help loved ones and save lives.

**Bio – Jordan Merrill** is Community Health Program Manager at Intermountain Healthcare serving St. George Regional, Cedar City, and Garfield Memorial Hospitals. Jordan has worked in the community health field for several years after receiving an education from Dixie State and Southern Utah University. He has served on state and local coalitions including serving as past President of the Healthy Dixie Council, along with roles on Washington County Prevention Coalition, Reach4Hope suicide prevention coalition, and local Opioid Coalition. Jordan works closely with fellow not-for-profit organizations and other community partners to promote prevention, wellness, and access to medical and behavioral health services for low-income, uninsured, and vulnerable people. He appreciates the power that comes from state and local community collaboration working together to accomplish great things. He and his wife, Talia, have four children and reside in St. George Utah.

**Instructor –** Doug Bennett, Washington County Water Conservancy District

**Title – *Conserve Water, Sustain Growth, & Preserve the Future***

Learn landscape management in desert climates to conserve water and preserve our greatest resource for future generations.

**Bio - Doug Bennett** is the conservation manager for the Washington County Water Conservancy District. He oversees development and implementation of the district’s conservation policies and programs. He has more than 28 years’ experience in successful water conservation at three western water agencies and broad experience in landscape management in desert climates. He is a nationally recognized leader in his profession, accruing more than a dozen awards for his work. He has worked on projects for the Water Reuse Foundation, the Water Research Foundation, the US EPA WaterSense Program, the US Green Building Council, and the American Water Works Association. He has a bachelor’s degree in agriculture and a master’s degree in business management from New Mexico State University.

**Instructor –** Tina Hackwell, ProPlans

**Title – *Better Communication = Bigger Bottom Line***

Learn communication strategies to allow for timely open discussions that nurture relationships and give organization and access to all parties on a project. Where are you losing money and how to save it. Implementing technology to increase communication and profitability.

**Bio – Tina Hackwell** is the Founder/CEO of ProPlans. She has 20+ years’ experience in Architecture/home design where she's worked with homeowners, general contractors, and trades all over the US and the world. She has experience in Real Estate and Mortgage Lending which rounds out her knowledge with the entire building process. Tina earned an MBA with an emphasis in Leadership from the Dixie L. Leavitt School of Business, and a BS in Interpersonal Communication from SUU. She has great strengths in problem-solving, logistics, team building, teaching, and leadership. She loves her family and baking and is famous for her homemade sourdough bread.