



## Northeast Region Construction Specifications Institute BOARD REPORT

**DATE:** 03-22-2023  
**TO:** Northeast Region Board of Directors  
**FROM:** Kevin E. Phillips Jr., CSI, CDT, Region Director

**SUBJECT:** Report of Syracuse Chapter of CSI

### A. Report Summary:

1. Chapter membership is holding steady at 25 members. Participation with Zoom programs is holding steady. Spec-Hunt was a great success. A total of \$2,000 in college scholarships were given out at our post-holiday awards dinner. The 2023 Construction Outlook is gaining sponsors, vendors, and attendees. The AIA & CSI Golf Tournament will be held later this Summer.

### B. The Report

1. Summary of activities since last report:

**11/10/2022: CSI Spec-Hunt: Specification Scavenger Hunt (In-person);  
45 participants (including students, faculty, vendors, and volunteers).**



Spec-Hunt was held at SUNY ESF, and colleges such as SUNY OCC, Morrisville College, and Delhi were invited to attend. Prof. McKeegan from Delhi College even brought up a few students in the college van.

Spec-Hunt is a construction specification scavenger hunt. Construction product reps set up booths with product samples and a construction specification. Students read through the specifications and answered questions. The students who answered the most questions correctly won a prize. The ultimate prize was a one-year CSI student membership. There was a Dinosaur BBQ dinner party at the conclusion of the event that was sponsored by Anthony Stazzone and MarinoWARE. This event also coincided with the start of a spec writing competition and the Edward Goldberg Memorial Scholarship for local college students to win a college scholarship. A total of \$2000 in college scholarships were given out at our post-holiday awards dinner.

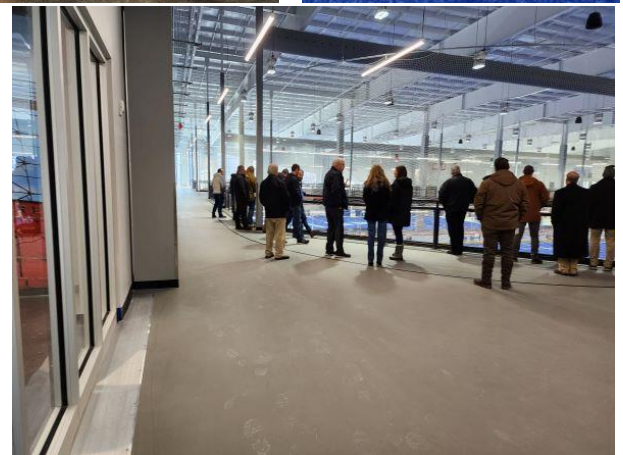
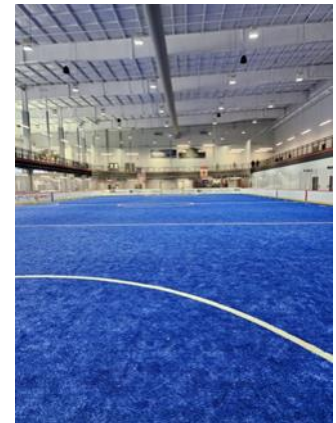
**12/13/2022: Joint Tour of the Nexus Center (In-person); 27 participants.**



We put together a joint tour of the Nexus Center presented by AIA Central New York, Syracuse Section of ASCE, and the Syracuse Chapter of CSI.

The Nexus Center is a 169,440 square foot facility conveniently located off the New York State Thruway in Utica, NY. Opened in November of 2022, the Nexus Center features state of the art amenities to make it a sports tournament destination.

The Nexus Center features three multipurpose 200ft. x 85ft. playing surfaces that can be utilized as ice sheets or turf. Each one of these ice sheets has the functionality to allow them to be utilized as turf or ice, or any combination of such. The Nexus Center will be connected by a walkway to the historic Adirondack Bank Center at the Utica Memorial Auditorium, which brings the total up to four surfaces for sports tournaments.





**01/26/2023: CSI Post-Holiday Awards Dinner; 17 participants.**

We hosted a post-holiday awards dinner at Oh My Darling restaurant in downtown Syracuse. This was a great opportunity to get together with friends to celebrate some local achievements in the construction industry. Three awards were given out. The first award was the Innovation in Construction Award, followed by awarding two local college students the Edward Goldberg Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship went to local college students who won our specification writing competition.



**INNOVATION IN CONSTRUCTION AWARD**

This award is presented to an individual or team who, in the opinion of their peers innovatively developed or discovered new uses for materials, methods, technology, or project delivery systems. This award went to Northeast Dronez. The Syracuse Chapter of CSI recognizes Northeast Dronez for innovative drone technology for use in the construction industry.



**FIRST PLACE - EDWARD GOLDBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - SPECIFICATION WRITING COMPETITION** went to Christopher Jones from SUNY Delhi. Chris was awarded a \$1,500 college scholarship.

**SECOND PLACE - EDWARD GOLDBERG MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP - SPECIFICATION WRITING COMPETITION** went to Justin Roberts from SUNY Morrisville. Justin was awarded a \$500 college scholarship.

## 2. Status of current programs:

The Syracuse Chapter plans on continuing with monthly Zoom education programs and plan on starting our first hybrid education program soon.

### **The 2023 Construction Outlook is being held on Thursday, April 20th at Drumlin's in Syracuse. This is an annual event, and it's our biggest, must-see event of the year.**

This is a joint event co-sponsored along with the Syracuse Builders Exchange and the Subcontractors Associates of Central New York. <https://csisyracuse.com/meetinginfo.php>

**This event is unique because it gets everyone involved:**

**CONTRACTORS can see upcoming projects to bid on**

**ARCHITECTS can showcase their great projects and earn CEU's**

**PRODUCT REPS can get their products in front of the construction community**

We start this event with an introduction by chapter president, Thomas Pratt. Followed by chapter vice-president, Mike Kulik's economic summary, then....

Five CNY architecture and engineering firms will discuss projects they have coming out for bid including project scope, estimated budget, and current design phase. Each firm will also showcase a "feature project" they recently designed or is in design. This year's lineup of speakers includes: BCA Architects & Engineers, Bell & Spina Architects, in-Architects, King + King Architects, and Klepper, Hahn & Hyatt.

This event will also include a sit-down dinner and keynote speaker Alicia Fernandez Dicks, President and CEO of the Community Foundation of Herkimer and Oneida Counties. Alicia will talk about her experiences and involvement with current economic development projects.

Architects who attend this program can earn two AIA Learning Units.

Attendees will be able to interact with product vendors during a mini-product show with up to 25 vendor tables within the ballroom. Attendees will be able to speak with vendors during registration and during the one-hour break after the dinner/keynote speaker.

We have currently sold 3 event sponsors, 16 vendor tables, and 37 total attendees (not including speakers and volunteers). Ultimately, we are hoping for 75 attendees with the vendor tables selling out, which is do-able based on past year's Construction Outlook performance. We expect a large uptick in registrations as the event gets closer.

Anyone interested in this event should contact chapter treasurer, Kevin Phillips at 315-525-4327 or email [info@csisyracuse.com](mailto:info@csisyracuse.com).

## 3. Problem areas:

Our biggest problem is providing a "perceived value" to our members that is worth their dues. One idea is for each chapter of the region to provide one monthly Zoom program (if possible) which could be offered for free to all CSI members of the region. This proposed change would considerably add perceived value to our Chapters and the Region. Would giving our members the option of attending up to 15 programs per month worth over \$300 in annual dues? If we did something like this, then members could pick and choose which programs they want to attend each month. And the potential amount of AIA cont. education credits would be beneficial to architects. Would you spend over \$300 annually for something like this? Or spend over \$300 annually for just one program per month?

#### 4. Success stories:

Other than our successful Spec-Hunt, the Nexus Center Tour, and the Post-Holiday Dinner, we were successful in gaining TWO new “microvolunteers”. We sent out a news blast to our members about “microvolunteering”, and two more individuals expressed an interest in volunteering. Microvolunteering is volunteering that can be done in small bursts or periods of time. It's a way to volunteer that doesn't rely on big commitments, which can prevent some people from being able to participate." We also mentioned that this is also a great way to network with other construction professionals, and help improve and enhance the local construction industry through CSI.

These two new “microvolunteers” are expected to officially become chapter directors during the next election cycle. Our chapter currently has a president, vice-president, and treasurer. We currently do not have a secretary or any chapter directors.

#### 5. Liaison Activities: None

### C. Chapter Leadership Roster

#### 1. Chapter Officers

Thomas Pratt – President  
315-637-0081  
[arch-mgt@tprattarch.com](mailto:arch-mgt@tprattarch.com)

Kevin Phillips – Treasurer  
315-525-4327  
[kevin@kevindeisgns.com](mailto:kevin@kevindeisgns.com)

Mike Kulik – Vice President  
[mkulik1326@gmail.com](mailto:mkulik1326@gmail.com)

#### 2. Chapter Committee Chairs: None

#### 3. Chapter Nominating Committee Appointee: Kevin Phillips, Treasurer

#### Respectfully submitted;

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**END OF REPORT**

CC: Region Secretary