

**AGCVA Announces Special Recognition Award to employees at Virginia Department of  
Labor & Industry for efforts around the Virginia BEST program**

The Associated General Contractors of Virginia (AGCVA) recognized the employees of the employees of the Virginia Department of Labor & Industry for their efforts to bring the Virginia BEST program from a best in class dream to reality.

Thursday, May 23, 2019 was special evening for 600+ member firms of the Associated General Contractors of Virginia. The Richmond District held their dinner meeting with members from all across Virginia. While the evening was social, historical & educational, there was also a significant opportunity to recognize a team of employees dedicated to making all contracting firms safer without additional regulatory burdens.

Ten years ago, AGCVA members, were concerned with the number of injuries on jobsites, met with the team at the VA Department of Labor and Industry and asked how the private sector can make the construction job site safer – after many years of back and forth, together that team from the public and private sector helped created the VA BEST program. VA BEST is a joint public and private industry partnership to make jobsites safer. AGCVA Chairman, Bruce Tibbetts captured the essence of VA BEST as “a significant cultural shift of looking at safety at all angles: from the principal's office all the way to the front line where the most dangerous work in our industry happens every day.” The effort has resulted in dozens firms of all sizes discussing, sharing, and learning more about VA BEST and the safety culture that results in stronger firms and better work environments.

Fast forward to May 2019: at AGCVA, awards are not automatic and do not have to be given at all. When they have provided an award, it is usually an Honorary AGC Award or Construction Man of the Year award. There is also another award, called the Special Recognition Award. It has only been given 4 times in nearly 100 years of AGCVA’s history. Special Recognition is reserved for individuals or entities, who go above and beyond their expected roles and help entire communities achieve greater accomplishments.

The Special Recognition Award is not just for one person and is designed to be shared with the talented individuals who make all construction firms safer on the jobsite and indirectly carries over to individuals' homes each and every day. The AGCVA Special Recognition award goes to the many individuals at the *Virginia Department of Labor and Industry* for their guidance to making this idea of safer jobsites a reality through VA BEST program. Accepting the special recognition award was Commissioner Ray Davenport. Commissioner Davenport said...Commissioner Davenport said...I am honored to receive this special recognition award on behalf of the dedicated staff of the Virginia Occupational Safety & Health (VOSH) Program and the Department. We have a passion to ensure that all workers return home safe and healthy every day. Working in partnership with the AGCVA to bring the Virginia BEST program to a reality will make construction jobsites safer and pay ongoing dividends to all Virginians for years to come."

About DOLI - The *Virginia* Department of Labor and Industry (*DOLI*) administers the programs for *Virginia* Occupational Safety and Health, Registered Apprenticeship, Boiler and Pressure Vessel Safety and Labor and Employment Law.

<https://www.virginia.gov/agencies/department-of-labor-and-industry/>

About the AGCVA - Provides services of the highest quality and value to improve skill, integrity and responsibility in the construction industry, to promote the public image of the industry and to enhance the quality of life for our communities. <https://agcva.org/>