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NWI UNION CONSTRUCTION

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Spring 2017



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**Analysis: The New Administration and
the Union Construction Industry**

Moving Forward



Kevin Comerford

Director of Professional
Development, Construction
Advancement Foundation

Last year, I attended a conference on the union construction industry. The keynote speaker at the event was a branding/marketing authority named Karen Post. She has authored a couple books and is president of a company that provides strategic planning and creative services to build brands. One of the key things that I took away from her presentation is that the union construction needs to really work on building our brand.

You may be asking yourself, “What exactly is a brand?” Essentially, it is what an individual thinks of when he or she hears your brand name. So in the terms of our industry, it’s everything the public thinks it knows about union construction —both factual and emotional.

The one thing that really stuck with me from the branding conference that I attended was that we tend to market ourselves wrong. If you look at an ad for a contractor or a trade union in a magazine, 9/10 times it’s a picture of a completed building, a crane on a construction site, or some other mundane image that really don’t have an emotional connection. It was suggested our brand could be improved if we used more images of the hard working men and women who work on our construction projects. If you look at Nike ad, you might see an image of a pair of sneakers every now and then, but for the most part they use images of athletes. This is because there is more emotional connection to the athlete as opposed to the dimensions of a shoe.

Immediately after the conference, I started laying the groundwork for improving our image and developed the concept of the CAF Gangbox. The purpose of the Gangbox is to promote our industry in a positive light. Visitors can see featured projects by union contractors as well as educational material to help you stay informed. One of the sections of the Gangbox contains jobsite photos of the people in our industry. It shows a side of the trades that most people won’t see unless they happen to be on a jobsite. All images can be shared via social media so the general public can glimpse of our industry and trade workers that build the region to help improve the quality of life for the people of Northwest Indiana. In essence, it is an effort to brand our industry using our greatest asset...our people. So please visit the [CAF Gangbox](#) today, share a picture, and tell your friends that you are proud to be part of this wonderful industry!

Kevin Comerford

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Cover Photo: Two Local 395 Ironworkers employed by Danny's Construction Co., Inc. erect structural steel at the new Fransiscan St. Anthony Health Hospital in Michigan City, IN. Tonn & Blank Construction of Michigan City, IN is the General Contractor on the project. Jake Wheeler is the Superintendent.

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Analysis: The New Administration and the Union Construction Industry

**By Mark Breslin, CEO at
Breslin Strategies, Inc.**

A photograph showing three construction workers in safety gear (hard hats, high-visibility vests) working on a dark, sloped roof under a clear blue sky. The workers are positioned in a line, leaning over the edge of the roof, possibly inspecting or measuring something.

The inevitability of change is something that all business leaders need to embrace. The wisest among them will monitor change closely and do what they can to influence it. The advent of a new presidential administration has the potential to generate far-reaching changes for union-affiliated contractors and their labor partners. While what follows is by no means a comprehensive analysis, I have canvassed many interested and informed parties to provide you with some thoughts on the next several years of political and economic change -- the good, the bad and (perhaps) the ugly.

The Future of Prevailing Wage Laws

This is an area of grave uncertainty for many union contractors who work on public projects throughout the U.S. While prevailing-wage laws don't yet enjoy the same momentum that accompanies the right-to-work movement, many advocates are working hard to advance their cause – and their actions require our attention. In late January, Sen. Jeff Flake (R) of Arizona introduced legislation to suspend the prevailing wage on all federal highway construction contracts. As I write this article, a new Labor Secretary hasn't yet been confirmed, but the administration is sending some strong signals about its agenda. President Trump's first choice, fast-food magnate Andrew Puzder – who later removed himself from consideration – worked almost exclusively in a non-union business environment, is a strong free-market advocate

and has been very critical of government regulations and market interference. And Geoff Burr, a former lobbyist and government affairs executive for the non-union Associated Builders and Contractors, was brought on board to help the administration install a new team at the Labor Department. All of these developments should concern readers in favor of the prevailing wage at both the federal and state levels. With massive infrastructure projects on the horizon, it's not a stretch to imagine that we will soon begin to hear arguments on reducing worker compensation via free-market forces in order to obtain greater value for each taxpayer dollar.

Infrastructure Investment

In this area, a lot of changes have already occurred to reposition infrastructure as a necessary and vital part of America's foundation. The new President's strong endorsement of infrastructure and building has already quieted many Tea Party advocates who labeled such projects as "pork" and were vehemently opposed to the shovel-ready stimulus projects of the last decade. President Trump's advisor, Steve Bannon, has observed that money is cheap and there is an opportunity to rebuild domestic infrastructure and invest in America on a massive scale. However, the Republican Congress will most certainly push back on any new tax measures or similar efforts to raise money for these projects. Private equity or tax credits have been identified as possible

funding sources, as has the repatriation of foreign tax obligations to create an Infrastructure Bank. But the idea of infrastructure “paying for itself” is problematic because most of the things that traditionally fall into this category – roads, bridges, etc. – typically don’t have readily available extended revenue streams. Despite these hurdles, the good news is that even in an increasingly polarized political environment, there is broad bipartisan support for action on infrastructure – most likely sooner rather than later.

The Blue Collar Vote

In discussions I have had with a number of union International Presidents, they acknowledge that roughly half of their members likely voted for Donald Trump. This represents a significant shift in traditional blue-collar union loyalties, and Republicans will be working hard to attract even more union households and convert them into long-term supporters. In the past, unions such as the Teamsters supported Republicans, but it has been some time since this block of voters was in play at such a critical level, especially in the key Midwestern states. The challenge for the Trump administration is to balance the expectations and economic interests of these new voters with the traditional Republican platform, which at times is in direct conflict with union members’ concerns (right-to-work, prevailing wage, etc.). This dilemma may serve as a moderating influence on Republican policymaking and balance out the party’s traditionally conservative Congressional agenda.

Right to Work

A very strong and sophisticated nationwide effort is underway to enact right-to-work laws at the state level. So far, this effort has been extremely successful, and it’s gaining momentum. More than 30 states have Republican governors, and 32 states have Republican-controlled legislatures. Party leaders are keenly interested in using their newfound dominance to kneecap their political opponents. Unions are being forced to dedicate more resources to battling right-to-work efforts, which could potentially impact expenditures in other areas such as training. There is even talk of national right-to-work legislation. It remains to be seen whether President Trump wants (or needs) to maintain his newfound political currency with construction unions by opposing such a bill.

Union Access and Relationships

In the first hours of his new administration, President Trump met with top construction union leaders, including those from the Laborers, the United Association and the Carpenters. Within a week, he had signed an order expediting the construction of the XL Pipeline. As well, he reportedly he spoke in a convincing manner to unions about establishing a collaborative effort to rebuild America. The reviews from building trades representatives who were present at these meetings have been enthusiastic to say the least, and stand in marked contrast to the rather cool relationship construction unions had with the previous administration. Labor sought help on a number of fronts, including pension reform, organizing legislation, and the impact of environmental regulations without much success. If the Trump administration continues to respond positively to unions, no one should be surprised that common, if nontraditional, political ground may be found. That’s good news for a president who approaches things from a transactional point of view (and who will be in need of friends come 2020).

Pension Liability and Reform

Pension issues are an ongoing challenge for union employers and it is worth noting that an expert on this subject is part of the new Cabinet. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross is very familiar with pension liability, laws, regulation and business impacts. When he obtained troubled assets as a businessman, he dispensed with pension liabilities as part of a strategic plan to boost value. Obviously, he had his own interests in mind then. It’s not clear how he will approach the pension problem and the perennially underfunded PBGC as Commerce Secretary. What is clear, though, is that Ross understands these issues intimately, and he will be sitting at the right hand of a President who is depending on him to develop a sound pension policy.

In summary, the many challenges I have just discussed require only one thing: diligent attention to what is vital and important. I won’t be standing on the sidelines, and I’m sure TAUC won’t, either.

Mark Breslin is a strategist and author of several books, including most recently, [The Five Minute Foreman: Mastering the People Side of Construction](#). Visit his website at www.breslin.biz or contact him at (925) 705-7662



CAF Celebrates Excellence in Northwest Indiana Construction

**By Kevin Comerford
Director of Professional Development
Construction Advancement Foundation**



On May 11th, 2017, more than 600 gathered at the Avalon Manor in Merrillville, Indiana for the 17th annual Construction Advancement Foundation awards banquet. The banquet celebrates the Northwest Indiana's most outstanding construction projects and recognizes the top contractors for work completed between May 1, 2016 thru April 1, 2017.

Awards are given for both Project of the Year and Contractor of the Year. Each category has several sub-categories which cover various market sectors such as commercial, industrial, public works, and heavy highway. All awards winners were determined by an independent panel of judges which included individuals with construction industry backgrounds. Project submittals must adhere to rigorous application requirements for consideration of the year's top honors. Contractors must not only demonstrate outstanding quality in construction, but also excellence in safety, innovation and uniqueness in construction techniques, craftsmanship, quality in project management, support for the community, and sympathy for the environment and its surroundings. Here are the winners from this year's awards.

Commercial Project of the Year:

**The Pangere Corporation – St. Catherine Hospital
Intensive Care Unit Remodel Project,
East Chicago, IN**

The \$1.7 million project included a complete redesign of over 6000 square feet of interior space that had to be completely demolished and re-constructed. The project was completed in less than 90 working days and includes 14 ICU patient rooms, 2 Isolation Patient Rooms, a centrally located nurse's station with a panoramic view of all patient rooms, new energy efficient lighting as well as natural lighting skylights to each patient room, and expanded storage space.

Public Works Project of the Year:

**Walsh & Kelly, Inc. – INDOT State Road 55
Project, Crown Point, IN**

This \$1.64 million project consisted of a complete reconstruction of State Road 55 from US 30 to the Crown Point town square. The total length of the project was 3.65 miles and encompassed 5 lanes through 75% of the length of the project. The scope included road reconstruction, curb work, removal and replacement of sidewalks, removal and replacement of ADA ramps, traffic loops, guardrails, sod replacement, and pavement striping. The project won the prestigious Larry H. Lemon Quality in Construction Award which is given annually by the National Asphalt Paving Association to only 10 projects from across the country.

Industrial-Capital Project of the Year:

BMWC Constructors, Inc. – NIPSCO Unity 17/18 Dust Collector Project, Wheatfield, IN

This \$12 million NIPSCO Unit 17/18 Dust Collector Project was completed at Schahfer Generation Station in Wheatfield Indiana included 48 helicopter lifts where over 100 pieces of steel were lifted into place. Planning was intense, working with a composite crew of Boilermakers, Ironworkers and Pipefitters, including multiple subcontractors to develop rigging plans and lift schedules. The BMWC team completed the project with zero injuries, zero weld rejects, on schedule and under budget.

Commercial Contractor of the Year

The Pangere Corporation

The Pangere Corporation received the commercial contractor of the year award for their work on multiple projects which included the new Portage Fire Station, Surgery Department Renovations at Community Hospital in Munster, St. Catherine ICU Unit in East Chicago, and the Methodist Hospital's CareFirst Urgent Care Center in Crown Point, IN. The total dollar amount on these projects totaled more than \$13 million.

Industrial Contractor of the Year

Hasse Construction Company, Inc.

Hasse Construction Company was the recipient of the Industrial Contractor of the Year award for multiple construction projects that included the Cargill F150 Starch Slurry & Syrup Tank Farm in Hammond, Gerresheimer Office Remodel, Indiana Harbor Belt Railroad Roundhouse Repairs, and Ports of Indiana Barge Fleeting Project.

Specialty Contractor of the Year

Thatcher Foundations, Inc.

Thatcher Foundations received the Specialty Contractor of the Year award for projects that included BP Crude Tank Risk Mitigation in Whiting, Springhill Suites Pipe Pile Project in Munster, and the NP Buncefield Camera Tower Project in Whiting, IN.

Highway Contractor of the Year

Rieth-Riley Construction Co., Inc.

Rieth-Riley Construction received the Highway Contractor of the Year for the construction of multiple road and highway project in Northwest Indiana. The project submitted in their nomination included the Interstate 94 resurfacing project (US 6/SR 51 to SR 249), 93rd Avenue and Chase Street Roundabout in Crown Point, and multiple paving projects throughout Lake County as well as within the city of Valparaiso.

Excellence in Professional Development Award

Graycor Industrial Constructors Inc.

The Excellence in Professional Development Award recognizes a contractor that takes a proactive role in improving the quality of their workforce through professional development training throughout all levels of their organization. Graycor Industrial Constructors was the recipient of the award.

Over the course of the last year, Graycor has trained 21 of their Field Supervisors at the CAF Superintendent Academy which resulted in over 500 total contact hours of Supervisory training. The CAF Superintendent Academy is a multi-day, comprehensive professional development program that trains supervisors in Leadership, Project Planning, Cost Control, Quality Control, Productivity, and Contract Law. Additionally, Graycor Industrial has sent dozens of their employees to CAF professional development classes including: the CAF Site Safety Certificate Program, OSHA Training, and First Aid and CPR, and a variety of continuous education courses for their managers, field supervision, journeymen, and apprentices.

Graycor Industrial Constructors also has an extensive internal professional development and training culture. Graycor's training and development provides workers with hard skills courses to increase knowledge in job-specific areas and topics, as well as soft skills development to increase interpersonal and collaborative abilities. Some of Graycor's internal training and development programs include: Engineer Mentor Committee, Project Manager Development Program, Quality Weld Training, Safety Excellence Workshop, and Strategic Thinking programs.

“I Don’t Have Time” Is a Lie!

By James S. Bain
Falcon Performance Institute



You have heard people say this over and over again, “I don’t have time.” The fact is that we all have the same number of hours in each day and we choose what to do with those hours. We choose whether to stay in bed, get up and go to work, or show up at our exercise class. We choose whether to write a letter to our mothers, take out the trash, clean the garage or paint the house. We choose what kind of work we want to do, where we want to live, who we want to live with, what hobbies we like to pursue. Our lives are a collection of our choices.

Ben Franklin said, “time is the stuff of which life is made.” If that is true, it means that time management is no more than self-management. As our economy moves from one year to the next, competition gets more fierce, margins are thinner, there is more pressure on being productive, and there are fewer people doing more work. Because in each ensuing year, there is more competition, there are more proposals, more sales calls, and more projects to be done by fewer people. In short, many of those who still have jobs are overwhelmed by the sheer volume of things they are expected to do. Since very few of us can “do it all,” we had better find some ways to make better choices.

While there are a lot of good habits that you can develop to better manage your time, it’s best to pick a few to get started. Master those and then move on to another group.

Start with these simple ideas to make your life a little easier. Remember, they are simple ideas, not necessarily easy. They will require self-discipline just as developing any good habit does.

1. Develop a set of goals and write them down. Consider short-term goals and long-term goals. Consider establishing goals that will help you balance these eight important areas of your life: Professional, Social, Spiritual, Financial, Recreational, Family, Intellectual and Physical. If that’s too many, use the YMCA model of Mind, Body and Spirit. Either way, you should be thinking in terms of life balance

2. Analyze where you spend your time now. Develop a simple time log where you will record what you are doing over the course of two weeks. You can use the same categories from step one if you like or you can create some others. The important thing is to get an accurate picture of how you spend your time now. Where you spend your time is a direct reflection of your priorities. Are you spending your time on the things that will help you achieve your goals? Or, are you spinning your wheels doing things that have no impact on where you want to go?

3. Plan your day and schedule your day, again in writing. What is the difference? Planning is deciding, in advance,

what you will do in a given day, week, or month. Scheduling is determining when you will do it. Too many people begin their day or their week with no real idea of exactly what they want to accomplish and when. Writing it down has two great benefits. First, it creates a sense of urgency in your subconscious. Because you've written it down, you believe that you need to get it done. Second, it gives you a chance to pat yourself on the back when you cross it off the list. Are the things you are putting in your plan and schedule contributing to reaching your goals? If so, great. If not, you may want to consider eliminating them from your list.

4. Make the most of slow time. There are at least two categories of slow time. The first is when you are not at your peak performance level. Maybe this occurs right after lunch or maybe you're just not a morning person. Schedule easier tasks for these times. These are good times to respond to e-mails, sort through your mail, and return phone calls. The really tough projects need to be scheduled when you are at your peak. The second category of slow time includes waiting time. Waiting for a doctor's appointment or commuting on the train are examples. Always have something to do; have trade journals to read, expense reports to complete or reports to review. Think of all the little, but important, things you can get done during this slow time. An interesting side benefit is that all of a sudden, it seems as if you never have to wait for a doctor or dentist. When you have something to do, they always seem to be running on time.

5. Create and maintain a controlled sense of urgency. Orchestra leaders, football quarterbacks and airline

pilots all have it. They aren't in a hurry but they are committed to everyone starting and stopping at the right time. There is a sense of urgency that everyone must buy in to. The people with whom you work and play will sense it and take their lead from you. You are someone who is in control of your time and in control of your life.

These are old rules but they apply to today's new game. Doing more with less is not only possible, it's required in today's economy. As we learn to make better choices with our time, we achieve more control over our lives. We can better balance our work time, our play time, and our rest time. We can relieve pressure and stress and maybe even go home from work on time. You have time to do the things you choose to do. "I don't have time" is a lie!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:




James S. Bain, MBA, is an author, speaker, consultant, and coach. He is the founder of the Falcon Performance Institute, a consulting and corporate training firm focused on productive performance. He has been a featured speaker at numerous regional and national conventions. Look for Jim's

book, Never Pass on a Chance to P- A Roadmap to Success, available on Amazon.com. To hire Jim or find out more about the Falcon Performance Institute, please visit www.fpiteam.com or call 352-854-4015.



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A New Approach to Multiemployer Pension Benefits

By Joshua Shapiro

Multiemployer defined benefit pension plans are dealing with very significant challenges. Approximately 10% to 15% of these plans are currently projected to exhaust their assets in the coming decades and be unable to continue paying benefits. While the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation insures the benefits in these plans, the PBGC itself is in dire financial condition and may be unable to pay its guarantees. Additionally, nearly all plans are struggling to attract and retain contributing employers, as many companies are unwilling to bear the financial risks associated with contributing to a multiemployer pension plan. These are complex issues for which there are no simple solutions.

In response to the difficulties they are facing, some multiemployer plans have begun to explore an innovative approach to providing retirement benefits. This approach makes use of a type of pension plan called a “variable annuity plan”. In a traditional pension plan, once a participant earns a benefit, it generally cannot be reduced. In contrast, the benefits in a variable annuity plan move up when the plan has positive financial experience, and move down when the plan experiences financial losses. Variable annuity plans have existed for a long time, but until recently there was little interest in them among multiemployer plan sponsors.

A variable annuity plan is far less likely to experience financial distress than a traditional defined benefit plan. Traditional defined benefit plans become underfunded when their asset levels decline, but their obligations to

pay benefits to participants remain unchanged. In a variable annuity plan, the obligation to pay benefits moves in the same direction as the assets. When the plan assets go up, so do the benefit levels. When the assets go down, the benefit payments go down as well. In a typical variable benefit plan, it is virtually impossible for the plan to become significantly underfunded due to the parallel movement of the assets and benefit obligations.

The primary advantage of variable benefit plans is the financial stability they offer. Employers who contribute to a variable annuity plan have a high degree of certainty that their contribution requirements will not increase, and they will not become responsible for any unfunded liabilities. Employees do not need to worry that the plan will exhaust its assets and be unable to pay any further benefits. Not surprisingly, this stability does not come without a tradeoff. Participants in variable annuity plans need to understand that their benefit payments are not fixed amounts, and they will move up and down from one year to the next. This short-term uncertainty is the price of the long-term reliability that these plans provide.

All else being equal, most participants would choose to have a retirement benefit that is fixed as opposed to one that varies. But the recent experience of multiemployer plans has shown that all else is not equal. A fixed-benefit plan can expose participants to the risk that the assets will be exhausted and participants will lose their benefits in their entirety. This risk may be reduced through very conservative funding policies, but those policies will result

in a combination of significantly lower benefit levels and higher costs. And if employers are unwilling to sponsor fixed benefit plans, then employees will not have any access to them.

Variable annuity plans offer a way for retirement plans to offer cost-effective lifetime income to participants without exposing employers to risks that they are unwilling to bear. While the retirement income that variable annuity plans pay can change from year to year, they provide much greater financial security than 401(k) style plans in which participants can very easily outlive their retirement benefits and be left with nothing. As they look for new ways to attract contributing employers and provide life-

time retirement income to participants, an increasing number of multiemployer plan sponsors are realizing that variable annuity plans can play an important role in their benefit packages.



Joshua Shapiro is a Senior Actuarial Advisor at Groom Law Group, Chartered. His practice focuses on the design, funding, and administration of multiemployer, single-employer, and governmental retirement plans. He can be reached at 202-861-2613

OSHA Recordkeeping Statute of Limitation Update

**By James J. Arendas, PhD
Environmental Safety and Health Director
Construction Advancement Foundation**



The Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 established a statute of limitations for enforcement and issuance of citations to be within 6 months of discovery. Historically the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) were able to issue citations for workplace injury and illness records that span over the past 5 years. In 2012 a court case between the Department of Labor and Volk Construction ended in a decision against OSHA which ruled the statute of limitations to 6 months rather than 5 years. However, OSHA did not appeal the decision nor did they change the policy of the agency regarding the issuance of citations past the statute of limitations based on the decision. On December 19, 2016 the Administrations issued a formal clarification of the employer's continuing obligation to make and maintain an accurate record of each recordable injury and illness. The clarification affirmed the fact that the employer was obligated to keep records for 5 years and the agency had the authority to cite violations that occurred during that period.

Recently, in January of 2017 another change took place the current administration took an interest in formally changing the OSHA statute of limitations back to 6 months for injury and illness recordkeeping citations. On March 22, 2017 the US Senate passed a measure to retract OSHA's change made on December 19, 2016 to the six-month statute of limitations for recordkeeping violations. On April 4, 2017 the President signed a resolution to overturn the 5 year statute of limitations requirement for recordkeeping.

OSHA has been silent on this subject since the new administration took office in 2017. Since the resolution was signed on April 4th of this year. Generally, significant changes are posted on OSHA's website but nothing has been posted concerning the statute of limitation change. It seems that the employer is still required to keep injury and illness records for 5 years but it appears the citations issued by OSHA will be limited to the 6 month statute of limitations. Keep an eye on the OSHA's website (osha.gov) for further guidance on this issue.



Purdue Northwest Receives Funding for New Bioscience Building

By Cain Buchmier

The Indiana General Assembly approved the \$35.1 million needed to fund the construction of the Bioscience Innovation Building on the Hammond campus. State legislators from the House and the Senate made the decision on April 22.

The Bioscience building will be 68,026-square-feet and will house the College of Nursing and Department of Biological Sciences. The Gyte Annex will be demolished.

Thomas Keon, PNW chancellor, said the House initially submitted a budget to the Senate that included funding for the Bioscience building. The Senate then made changes to the budget that did not include funding for the building, though eventually both the House and the Senate came together on an agreement on the final budget, which included the \$35.1 million necessary for the construction of the building.

“Initially I was disappointed [that the funding was removed from the budget], but I knew that, depending on how buildings were funded, that there might be a possibility of getting it back in the final budget,” Keon said. “When the revenues came in positive, there was at least a glimpse of possibility and when we were on the list I was ecstatic.”

Keon said it is not unusual for changes to be made to a budget before a final version can be agreed upon.

“That usually happens with every bill. They get a group together that looks at it to get something that is acceptable

for both the House and Senate,” Keon said. “The budget is the toughest because there are so many variables.”

Michael Kull, associate vice chancellor for Facilities and Capital Projects, said he is pleased with the decision to fund the construction of the Bioscience building, as it has been something he has been pursuing for 15 years.

“It’s been an emotional rollercoaster. We invested a lot of time into this and it made it to the House, but then it fell through, which was disappointing but was picked up again in the Senate committee. So it was pretty cool going from very excited to disappointed to very excited again in a few days,” Kull said.

According to Keon, a meeting will be held on May 9 to discuss the next steps in the process of constructing the Bioscience building, including coming up with a timeline and hiring a construction firm to begin working on blueprints. Two million dollars that was approved two years ago for the creation of architectural blueprints are available now.

“People will bid on that, then there will be a selection and then start working on the final details of what needs to be done for construction of the building,” Keon said. “Really what I hope is that we can hire a design firm so we can have design construction begin early next summer (2018). Construction bonding can be made available, so that’s the earliest the \$35.1 million can be freed up.”

Currently, the Gyte Annex connects to the Powers and Potter buildings. Kull said that while it is yet to be designed, the intent is to keep a connection between those buildings after the demolition of the Gyte Annex. Kull also said that while specifics are still being determined, of the offices that are currently located in the Gyte Annex, those that are affiliated with the College of Nursing and Department of Biological Sciences will be moved to the Biosciences building.



“I think it will be the new face of campus. If you look at the contemporary design, it’s not 90 degree redbrick without many windows like we currently have [with SUL]. I think it’s a great looking building,” Kull said. “Now we’re going to have a new building that will be huge for PNW.”

The construction of the Bioscience building, which will be located in front of the SUL building in what is currently a section of the parking lot, is expected to eliminate some parking spaces. Kull said that the results of an annual parking survey found that the parking garage is underutilized, which can be used instead of the parking spaces that will be lost with the construction of the Bioscience building. Kull also said that the city of Hammond is going to repave and widen the streets from 173rd and put in a pedestrian refuge island



Walsh & Kelly Inc.

Featured Project

State Road 55 Resurfacing Project

In June of 2016, Walsh & Kelly, Inc. completed construction on State Road 55 resurfacing project in Crown Point, IN. The total dollar amount for the project came in at \$1,641, 000.

The project began at US 30 and ended at the Crown Point town square. The total length of the job was 3.65 miles and had 5 lanes through 75% of it.

The challenging aspect of this project was limiting the impact on both business and the community during the construction phase. State Road 55 is an extremely busy stretch of roadway which includes dozens of businesses, the Lake County Government Center, and downtown Crown Point. The daily vehicle traffic averages roughly 22,000 vehicles.

Work began on the project in April 2016 and had a completion date of November 11th of the same year. The job required a total of 13,800 tons of surface material and approximately 1000 tons of binder for patching. The project scope included all curb work, removal and replacement of sidewalks, removal and replacement of ADA ramps, traffic loops, guardrails, sod replacement, and pavement striping. No sub-contractors were used on the project. Walsh & Kelly was able to finish the project by the end of June 2016 which was approximately 4 months ahead of schedule.

The State Road project is notable for a number of reasons. For instance, the project had zero asphalt material test fails. The lowest asphalt test rating the company received was 103% which is well above minimum test requirements imposed by INDOT. The testing results helped Walsh & Kelly win the prestigious *Larry H. Lemon Quality in Construction Award* which is given annually by the National Asphalt Paving Association to top 10 paving projects from across the country. Moreover, Walsh & Kelly also received the *CAF Public Works Project of the Year Award*.

Project Participants

General Contractor:

- Project Manager - Sam Mandon
- Field Supervisor - John Straka
- Laboratory Supervisor - Rob Duncan
- Field Laboratory Supervisor - Ron Duncan
- Paving Foreman - Al Vance

- Paving Foreman - Jamie Layton
- Concrete Foreman - Al Watts
- Safety Director - Jerry Hancock

Owner:

- Indiana Department of Transportation, Laporte, IN

