

NAWIC Education Foundation Press Release

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NEF Awards Education Advocate 2011

Carol A. Kueker Construction Education Visionary Award

NEF award recognizes individuals for their passion and dedication to construction education.

CLEMSON, S.C., May 6, 2011 – The NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF) awarded the 2011 Carol A. Kueker Construction Visionary Award to Sheilah Goulart, founder and director of YouthBuild San Joaquin, Pre YouthBuild, San Joaquin Building Futures Academy, San Joaquin Regional Conservation Corps and WorkStartYES in Stockton, Calif. Goulart was given the award for her leadership and commitment to the development of innovative vocational construction programs in California.

YouthBuild San Joaquin (YBSJ) is a youth and community development program that provides young adults who have troubled pasts with the opportunity to transform themselves into productive citizens with viable futures through a unique combination of education, skill building, counseling, leadership development, community service, positive values and relationships, high standards of behavior and clear pathways to a productive future. The goal of the program is to help trainees earn their GED or high school diploma while gaining construction skills. Upon completion of the program, trainees earn a construction certificate that is recognized by the state as well as national certification that is recognized by the Homebuilders Institute.

Within a five-year period, Goulart has been able to increase enrollment from 21 students in 2006 to nearly 100 in 2011. The program's success, according to **Kim Mans**, AmericCorp Mentor Supervisor and NAWIC member, who nominated Goulart for the Carol A. Kueker Award, is attributed to Goulart's ability to build a strong collaboration between program partners, both locally and at the government level.

“What Sheilah has accomplished in a few short years is remarkable,” Mans wrote in her nomination form about Goulart. “She has proven to be a visionary who can make things happen. Due to her exceptional vision and leadership, she and her staff have managed to build a program in a community that has been seriously impacted by the recession, gang violence and sky rocketing numbers of housing foreclosures.”

Goulart says that her involvement with the program is a result of the passion that she shares for career and technical education. “When I learned about the YouthBuild model, I knew it was the perfect mix of academic and hands-on construction training integrated with leadership development, counseling, and mentoring,” says Goulart. “Although I am the one being recognized, it is a team of individuals and organizational partners that contribute to the success of YouthBuild San Joaquin.”

Goulart will be recognized for her accomplishments during the Crystal Vision Awards ceremony on Sept. 3 at NAWIC’s 56th Annual Convention in St. Louis, Mo.

The Carol A. Kueker memorial award recognizes nonmembers of NAWIC for their passion and dedication to NEF programs and the promotion of construction education through a variety of avenues. The special award is given to select individuals meeting the high caliber of achievements demonstrated by Kueker. It is named in honor of the late Carol A. Kueker, a long-time trustee and volunteer who served as president of NEF. Kueker was instrumental in promoting the core purpose and goals of the organization.

The NAWIC Education Foundation was founded in 1972 by volunteers from the National Association of Women in Construction who saw a need for quality training programs in the construction industry. Based in Clemson, S.C., NEF is responsible for administering a variety of K-12 programs that help educate today’s youth to pursue construction careers. In addition, NEF offers a full range of self-study courses for adults. NEF maintains partnering agreements with various education-related organizations that allow it to expand its offerings of educational courses, many of which are offered online. NEF is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit educational foundation to which tax-deductible contributions can be made.

The core purpose of the NAWIC Education Foundation is to educate the construction industry today ... and tomorrow. Its goals are to provide quality education programs for the construction industry and to promote the benefits of a career in the industry. For additional information about NEF, including its educational courses, go to www.nawiceducation.org, send an email to nef@bellsouth.net or call (866) 277-2883.

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