

Energy efficiency leaders gather in Scottsdale for NAESCO annual conference

Alan M. Petrillo
Electric Times

The National Association of Energy Service Companies (NAESCO) held its 33rd annual conference Nov. 17 and 18, attracting 300 individuals to the event held at the Westin Kierland Resort in Scottsdale.

The annual conference focused on the utility and Energy Service Company (ESCO) responses to complex and sometimes conflicting market signals, said NAESCO spokeswoman Heidi Walters, as well as the state of the ESCO industry, and the role of measurement and verification protocols in the context of market applications.

Attendees at the event included ESCO leaders, energy efficiency vendor representatives, EE and RE project financiers, policy makers, public administrators, utility energy efficiency program managers, customers working with ESCOs or contemplating an ESCO-delivered energy efficiency retrofit and thought leaders in energy efficiency technology, design and implementation.

Featured sessions included Scaling Up Integrated Energy and Water Efficiency Project Investment, presented by Shane Snyder of the University of Arizona; and



NAESCO meeting attendees take in a seminar during the annual conference in November.

the Utility of the Future, presented by John Hargrove, president and chief executive officer of the Phoenix-based Association of Energy Services Professionals.

The keynote address, Creating Prosperity Through a Clean Energy Economy: Technology, Policy and Finance, was given by Dan Reicher, formerly with Google and currently executive director of the Steyer-Taylor Center for Energy Policy and Finance at Stanford University.

Besides the various presentations and workshops, NAESCO held a pre-conference workshop on new opportunities in the

application of Property Assessed Clean Energy Financing (PACE).

Terry E. Singer, executive director of NAESCO said that NAESCO was pleased to host a very well attended conference spotlighting an extremely timely look at the state of the utility and ESCO industries.

NAESCO is the leading national trade organization representing and promoting the energy efficiency industry in the energy marketplace, the media and the government at the state and federal levels. NAESCO's active membership consists of energy efficiency industry leaders representing

ESCOs, energy efficiency and energy equipment manufacturers, suppliers and subcontractors. The organization also includes engineers, consultants, government agencies financial and legal providers, insurance providers, and representatives from the energy NGO (non governmental organizations) and academic communities.

Energy Service Companies contract with private and public sector energy users to provide cost effective energy efficiency retrofits across a wide spectrum of client facilities, from college campuses to water treatment plants.

Competition

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categories: one for professionals and one for students/apprentices. Each could compete as an individual and/or team of three. Contestants needed to demonstrate both their problem-solving and physical skills across four categories: wire cutting, stripping, termination and testing through a multi-station speed test judged by fastest completion time and overall accuracy of the wire connection.

From April through October, more 900 preliminary events were held in 33 states by electrical distributors, trade schools and other organizations across the nation, resulting in 23,524 participants nationwide vying for a spot to compete for the IDEAL National Championship title.

The top 62 professional tradesmen, 62 students/apprentices (participating as individuals), along with the top five professional tradesmen and top five student/apprentice teams with the fastest times from 62-regional-specific preliminary rounds advanced to the two-day competition in Orlando. Each qualifying contender also received a 13-piece tool kit (valued at \$325 dollars) and travel accommodations.

Local distributor locations where professionals and apprentices competed for the right to go to the nationals were at Border States Electric Supply, Graybar Electric, WESCO Distribution, ANIXTER Flagstaff, and Arizona Electric Supply - Mesa.

Apprenticeship participation in the qualifying events came from Independent Electrical Contractors - Arizona Chapter (IECAZ), Phoenix Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (PEJATC), Tucson Electrical Joint Apprenticeship Training Program (TEJATP), Arizona Builders Alliance (ABA) and Northern Arizona Electrical Contractors Association (NAECA).

During the national awards ceremony, IDEAL revealed that the competition would return in 2017. The inaugural event's top five professional tradesmen, top five stu-

dent/apprentices (who participated as individuals), and the top two professional and student/apprentice teams will be guaranteed spots to return to the 2017 semi-finals.

"It is our hope that this competition and the excitement around it will inspire young tradesmen to pursue careers in the electrical field and relieve some suffering the industry

faces due to a lack of skilled labor," said James. "We want to thank all of our competitors, judges, channel partners, trade schools, distributors and our colleagues who helped make this competition possible. We hope to see you all next year."

Winners in the professional electrical tradesmen participating as an individual category were Greg Anliker of Kellenberger Electric in Elgin, Ill., first place, receiving a \$75,000 prize; Timothy Morris of Inglett & Stubbs in Canton, Ga., second place and \$25,000; Joshua Kol of Circuit Electric in Coopersville, Mich., third, \$10,000.

First place in the professional electrical tradesmen participating as a team category went to Sam Buche, Jon Dahlstrom and Michael Dahlstrom of Multitech Electric in Maplewood, Minn., \$60,000 (split amongst teammates).

In the students/apprentices participating as an individual category, Corbin Rios of IBEW Local-271 in Park City, Ks., took first place and a \$30,000 prize, plus \$5,000 for his school; Joshua Collins of Blue Ridge Electric in Brasier Falls, N.Y., won second and \$20,000; while Michael Fox of IBEW Local-292 in Shakopee, Minn., won the \$10,000 third place prize.

In the students/apprentices participating as a team category, first place went to Patrick Flanery, Bryan Olson and Ben Woodworth of Minneapolis Local 292 JATC with the \$30,000 split amongst teammates, plus \$5,000 for their school.

IDEAL Industries Inc. is a global, diversified family business designing and manufacturing products and tools for professional tradesmen in the electrical, wire processing, data communications, aerospace, automotive and construction industries. The 100-year old company was founded in 1916 on the premise of forging ideal relationships with customers, employees and communities, and has consistently grown and expanded under four generations of family ownership.



After the successful competition, it was announced at the awards ceremony that the event would again be held in 2017.