



# NEWSLETTER

Winter 2025

## MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NECA Innovation Family,

The 2025 MEP Innovation Conference reached new heights with 27 educational sessions, 450 minutes of roundtables, and 17 hours of networking. During the event, over 78 experts shared insights on the latest tools, technologies, and strategies to boost MEP contractor productivity and profitability.

We are proud to recognize the Top 5 NECA Innovators of 2025 — trailblazers driving progress in construction through technology, training, and industry leadership. These pioneers are known for their inquisitive minds, drive for results, and most importantly, their enthusiastic community advocacy.

Collin Weiner of CalEnergy Corporation was honored at MEP Innovation as the 2025 NECA Innovator of the Year. We celebrate Collin and all of these outstanding leaders shaping the future of our industry.

### Top 5 NECA Innovators of 2025



**Collin Weiner**  
President  
CalEnergy Corporation  
2025 NECA Innovator of the Year



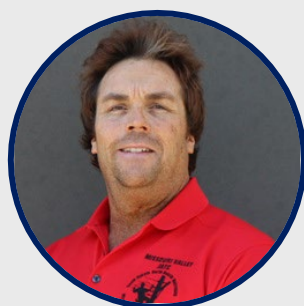
**Andy Arendt**  
Electrical Foreman  
Van Ert Electric



**Crystal Wagner**  
Executive Director of Finance  
Gerke Electric



**Tim Viau**  
Senior VDC Manager  
Miller Electric



**Robbie Foxen**  
Executive Director  
Missouri Valley JATC

Keep the momentum going in 2025 — explore the opportunities below to get involved!

- **2025 NECA Now Conference:** Join us at [NECA Now 2025](#) in Hollywood, FL, from April 7 – 9, for a transformative leadership and personal development experience tailored for electrical contractors..
- **NECA Innovation Institute Applications:** [Applications are open](#) for the 2025 Cohorts of the NECA Innovation Institute. This year-long executive program that empowers forward-thinking leaders with the tools, coaching, and network to drive innovation in their organizations.

**Tauhira Ali**  
NECA Executive Director of Industry Innovation  
[innovation@necanet.org](mailto:innovation@necanet.org)

## INDUSTRY PIONEERS



*"Innovation is the ability to see and recognize a needed solution that enhances processes and quality of life."*

### Jason Murphy

Vice President of Pre-Construction  
at DL Smith Electric  
NII Da Vinci Cohort  
2024 - 2025



Click/Scan for more info about the NECA Innovation Institute



*"Ultimately, we all need to make money. Being efficient and trying to innovate and find new ways to do things is at the top of our list."*

### Lance Beck

Vice President of Contract Operations at Chapel Electric



Click/Scan to check out the Innovation Overload Podcast

## Celebrate Your Innovators!

The **NECA Innovator of the Year** is awarded to an industry pioneer from a NECA member contractor who champions innovation and continuous improvement across their company and the entire NECA community.



Click/Scan to nominate an innovative team member today

## AROUND THE INDUSTRY



### WHAT WE'RE READING

- [How Modular Construction Drives the Convergence Of Industries](#)  
1/7/25, World Economic Forum
- [Tracking the EV Battery Factory Construction Boom Across North America](#)  
2/6/25, Tech Crunch
- [Tariff Fears Tied to Biggest Construction Cost Jump in 2 Years](#)  
2/13/25, Construction Dive



### UPCOMING EVENTS

- [Women in NECA Leadership Conference](#)  
April 6 – 7 in Hollywood, FL
- [NECA Now](#)  
April 7 – 9 in Hollywood, FL
- [NECA Legislative Conference](#)  
April 28 – 30 in Washington D.C.

