



**For Immediate Release
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Merit Saskatchewan Hosts Construction Employee Awards

Saskatchewan's open shop construction industry gathered last night in Saskatoon for MERIT Saskatchewan's 4th Annual Employee Awards of Excellence, celebrating the achievements of employees in a variety of construction-related fields.

"The MERIT Saskatchewan Employee Awards of Excellence are all about celebrating the success of our member companies and acknowledging their employees for a job well done," said Karen Low, Executive Director of the MERIT Contractors Association of Saskatchewan. "Our congratulations to all the Merit award winners, and to all nominees for helping lead our industry through another successful year."

The MERIT Saskatchewan awards gala was held at the German Cultural Centre in Saskatoon and attended by nearly 300 construction representatives from across the province.

MERIT Employee Awards of Excellence were presented in nine different categories.

Saskatoon's Allan Construction took home the Merit Employer of the Year Award. Founded in 1992 by Monte and Gail Allan, the company now focuses on the industrial and commercial construction sectors in the province. The company's attention to employee safety was recently celebrated as Allan employees have worked one million hours without a lost time incident.

"We have a great team of employees and it's very rewarding to know that our employees nominated our company," said Janice Dubreuil of Allan Construction, Project Manager and Partner. "We started as a family business and still try to run our company with that same kind of family atmosphere."

Martensville's Jason Young of Concept Electric was named the MERIT Field Employee of the Year and was acknowledged not only for his leadership and commitment to safety on the jobsite but also his volunteer efforts.

"Over the past three years, Jason has grown to be one of our key employees and foremen on some of our large industrial projects in the province," said Shaun Howdle, Concept's General Manager - Industrial Division, and MERIT Saskatchewan Vice-Chair. "He leads by example; he's always calm under pressure and a great teacher for our new employees."

Regina's Grant Selinger of PCL Construction was named Project Manager of the Year.

"Grant is a young guy but he's a natural leader with a great future in the construction sector,"

commented Sean Hamelin, District Manager of PCL Construction. “He took over one of the dormitories at the RCMP barracks in Regina, then did a great job on some of the K+S mine site work at Bethune and now he’s the project manager on the long term care centre in Swift Current.”

Other award winners announced at the gala were:

MERIT Community Builder: Aaron Bohrson, Allan Construction
MERIT Leadership and Mentoring Award: Garth Tomlinson, PCL Construction
MERIT Worksite Innovation Award: Kirk Simonson, Pentec Energy
MERIT Outstanding Site Supervisor: Ellis Kempton, Banff Constructors
MERIT Outstanding Office Employee: Chris Knihniski, Quorex Construction
MERIT Trade Excellence Award: Kelsey Lutz, Coram Construction

Founded in 1988, MERIT Contractors Association is the voice of Saskatchewan’s open shop construction sector, comprising over 80% of the contractors in the province.

For more information, please contact:

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Photo attached: 2015 MERIT Employee Awards of Excellence Winners: (l to r) Janice Dubreuil, Allan Construction; Grant Selinger, PCL; Garth Tomlinson, PCL; Jason Young, Concept Electric; Chris Knihniski, Quorex Construction; Aaron Bohrson, Allan Construction; Ellis Kempton, Banff Constructors; Kirk Simonson, Pentec Energy; Kelsey Lutz, Coram Construction (missing)

