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2020 Ones to Watch: Richard Shearns, Project Executive at G.Greene Construction Co., Inc.

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Richard Shearns
G.Greene Construction Co., Inc.

Which project, deal, or transaction was the “game-changer” in the advancement of your career? I have been very fortunate to work in many market sectors over the course of my career in construction management, but I found that projects in healthcare and life sciences offer inherent challenges not commonly found in other segments of the industry. Two specific projects come to mind; Holyoke Medical Center, Emergency Department & Medical Office Building and the Broad Institute Laboratory Renovations. Both projects were instrumental in my professional development, offering me a real opportunity to play a significant role in complex institutional work.

How have your life experiences impacted who you are professionally? As much as I value the many successful projects I’ve worked on over the years, I’m particularly proud of the strong partnerships I’ve built with subcontractors and repeat clients. Many of these relationships were developed during the most challenging moments of my career. I think these experiences have taught me that perseverance and dependability are the most universally appreciated character traits a person can have.

How do you contribute to your community or your profession? I look at giving back to the community as both a responsibility and a privilege. I’m very proud to be part of a culture at G.Greene Construction that shares these same values. Whether its transporting much needed supplies to hurricane victims in Louisiana and Texas or supporting local charities like Toys for Tots and Cradles to Crayons at home, it’s a wonderful feeling when you know you’re making a difference in people’s lives.

What led you to your current profession? I have always had curiosity in how things are built, which led me to my very first job in construction, building single and multi-family homes in Boston and the metro-west area. It was then that I not only began my education, but also developed an appreciation for the skilled craftsmen and expert mechanics working around me. I majored in Construction Management in college and transitioned into commercial building after I graduated. I’ve been very fortunate to have played many different roles over the course of my career, all of which have prepared me for my current position as a Project Executive.

Who or what inspires you? I’m inspired by teamwork. I’m surrounded by an amazingly talented and passionate group of professionals who know the meaning of teamwork. There are far too many responsibilities for one person to meet all the demands of a complex construction project, it requires the contributions of many. I like to think I bring out the best in the people I work with, but I can certainly say that they bring out the best in me.

If your life were made into a movie, what actor would you want to portray you? Tom Hanks...he doesn’t make bad movies!

What advice can you offer to someone who is interested in a career in your industry? Get out from behind your computer monitor and spend as much time as you can in the field learning how building

components come together. Work alongside the dedicated men and women that are digging trenches, hanging drywall and laying floors because they're the backbone of our industry. Earn their respect and you'll be well on your way to becoming an effective manager someday.

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