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Gould Const. Institute names Mills new 1st chair

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Boston, MA Gould Construction Institute (GCI), the training affiliate of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) Massachusetts, named its 2021 leadership lineup. Bill Burg, partner development manager at DECCO, remains chairperson, and Luiza Mills, vice president of human resources and public relations at Interstate Electrical Services Corp., has been named 1st chair.

The new leadership at GCI will continue the organization's mission to foster the next generation of skilled craftspeople through training, education, partnerships, and programs.

Though COVID-19 has complicated GCI's regular in-person events and training sessions, a full slate of virtual events and training courses are available online, with more in development throughout the year.

Mills plans to bring her expertise in human resources and extensive experience in administering on-the-job education at Interstate to her role at GCI, and commits to continue expanding options for those looking to enter the trades. Additionally, Mills is committed to working to reduce the stigma associated with the trades.

"I am passionate about GCI's mission to not only provide training for fulfilling career opportunities but also for their stance on educating the community on the multi-faceted world of construction," said Mills. "I'm looking forward to continuing to champion the construction trades and to open the doors for women and people of all backgrounds to the rewarding careers that await them."

"The GCI has a renewed focus this year on building awareness of the opportunities in construction and is exploring ways to work with underrepresented groups such as veterans, women and minorities," said Julie Kelliher-DeStefano, director and president, GCI. "We're honored to have Luiza in the 1st chair role to help guide us through these unusual times and lead us toward a more inclusive future."

The Gould Construction Institute is committed to elevating the public perception of the construction industry and destigmatizing a career in the trades. The traditional four-year college degree, which has been emphasized over the past few decades, often leaves graduates in debt and without a clear job path. Having successfully implemented a number of training and education programs at Interstate, Mills is proud to help lead the GCI through 2021 and beyond.