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2024 Year in Review: Ryan Lynch, Shawmut Design and Construction

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What noteworthy transactions or deals from this year best exemplified key market trends or shifts? New England's emphasis on education is reflected in its leading institutions, which are increasingly prioritizing sustainability across their campuses and in their buildings. Shawmut is proud to partner with many of these institutions, helping them shape the future of their buildings and create environmentally conscious spaces. This year, the funding from the Inflation Reduction Act has been a catalyst for many to be able to achieve their sustainability goals while also contributing significant cost savings to their projects. This shift exemplifies how policy and innovation can drive impactful change in educational infrastructure.

What was your greatest professional accomplishment or most notable project, deal, or transaction in 2024?

I'm proud of our work on Hardy Elementary School in Wellesley, MA – a net-zero-ready, all-electric facility. The school features cutting-edge spaces like a STEAM lab and media center, a two-story library, and collaborative classroom clusters. With outdoor classrooms, a kiln-equipped art room, and a performance-ready music room, every space is tailored to inspire learning and creativity. Targeting LEEDv4 Silver certification, the state-of-the-art school is NZE-certified including an all-electric mechanical system and is photovoltaic ready. Built in partnership with The Town of Wellesley, Vertex Companies, SMMA, and MSBA, this project reflects our shared commitment to sustainability, innovation, and shaping the future of education.

What emerging trends will drive investment and development in 2025?

In 2025, the competitive higher education landscape will drive increased investment in both student and faculty housing as institutions strive to attract and retain top students, faculty, and researchers from around the world. Institutions are prioritizing modern, high-quality living environments that support students' academic and personal success. Many face aging housing stock that requires extensive renovations to meet the needs of 21st century students, prompting a surge in both new construction and transformative upgrades. These investments reflect a commitment to creating spaces that foster focus, collaboration, and well-being, ensuring institutions remain competitive on a global scale.