

PRESS RELEASE

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NEF ANNOUNCES 2019-2020 BLOCK KIDS NATIONAL WINNERS

5TH Grader from Alaska Chapter of NAWIC takes top prize

ORLANDO, FL, June 1, 2020: NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF) recently named their 2019-2020 Block Kids Building Competition National winners. Many creative projects were submitted this year at Block Kids events across the country making it very difficult for this year's judges to choose a top three.

Voted as this year's 1st place winner from NAWIC's Pacific Northwest Region and sponsored by Alaska Chapter #197, Andrew Hippler, 5th grader from Anchorage, AK built an "oil rig" with an overall concept of being in water – with transport ships and cable pulley with a huge bucket pulling the oil up safely. Hippler also noted the oil rig has "a safety shutdown device for monitoring pressure and gases for safety of the crew". He doesn't know what he wants to be when he grows up, he "just wants to go with the flow" but likes to watch *Survivorman*.

2019-2020's 2nd place winner from NAWIC's Southeast Region and sponsored by Atlanta, GA Chapter #49, Chloe Brown, is a 5th grader from Stockbridge, GA. Her project was a Bakery "because life is sweet". Brown built the bakery for "anyone who wants to help the community; come in to eat or sign up for a job – all proceeds will be donated to charity" (Children's Hospital of America). She is recognized by the competition judge as being very "humanitarian focused as she is excited that her building will also create jobs for people and

feed the community". Brown wants to be an engineer or plant and animal scientist when she grows up.

NAWIC's South Atlantic Region and sponsored by Charlotte, NC Chapter #121, Carissa Hopkins, 5th grader from Matthews, NC, was chosen as this year's 3rd place winner. Hopkins designed a power station with solar panels "located strategically to provide energy all day". Hopkins says she "wants to be a District Attorney because watching lots of shows" when she grows up and stated she enjoyed the competition as it allowed her to use her creativity to produce her design.

NEF's Block Kids Building Competition is a National competition that is sponsored on the local level by NAWIC Chapters and other organizations. The award-winning program is open to grades K-6 and introduces children to the construction industry in an effort to create awareness and promote careers in the industry.

The NAWIC Education Foundation was founded in 1972 by volunteers from the National Association of Women in Construction who saw a need for quality training programs in the construction industry. Based in Orlando, FL, NEF is responsible for administering a variety of K-12 programs that help educate today's youth to pursue construction careers. In addition, NEF offers a full range of self-study courses for adults. NEF maintains partnering agreements with various education-related organizations that allow it to expand its offerings of educational courses, many of which are offered online. NEF is recognized by the IRS as a 501(c) 3 non-profit educational foundation to which tax-deductible contributions can be made.

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The core purpose of NEF is to educate the construction industry today...and tomorrow. Its goals are to provide quality education programs for the construction industry and to promote the benefits of a career in the industry. For additional information about NEF, including its educational courses, go to www.nef-edu.org, send an email to nawicedu@gmail.com or call (407) 667-3417.