

Hardin Hires Field Engineer Recruit at Construction CareerExpo

Cameron Newell knows he is going to be a part of something magnificent. He stands on a plot of land where the Cobb Energy Performing Arts Center will soon rise up from the ground.

Right now there isn't much to see. Some holes in the ground. Two of those giant tower cranes for moving things around the jobsite. And field engineers using drawing information to lay out the site of this high visibility building.

Cameron is working alongside Mike and Eric Bullington, a father/son team. They are responsible for the field engineering duties on site. Until they have laid out all the control lines, elevations, working points and other survey points, no one can build anything.



Cameron Newell takes a reading on a surveying instrument while Eric Bullington (in the excavation, at lower right) marks the location of the working point. "I'm getting to learn to use all kinds of surveying equipment. Next I'll learn to use the field engineering software," Newell said. Hardin is training Cameron on the job to be a field engineer.

But let's back up a bit. Just how did Cameron get here in the first place?

"I went to college right out of high school, but I wasn't sure what I wanted to study," Cameron recalled. "I was doing fine in school grade-wise, but I felt like I might just be wasting my time. How do you know what you want to do if you have no work experience?"

So Cameron started looking around. He attended the Construction Career Expo 2005, put on by 142 companies in the construction industry and the Construction Education Foundation of Georgia (CEFGA). Hardin Construction Company, a major supporter of CEFGA and the Expo, got involved hoping to find rising talent with the skills and desire to learn what it takes to be successful in construction. They each found what they were seeking.

"You could tell right away which students at the Expo were interested in construction careers and which ones were just taking the day off," said Erik Bullington, Field Engineer with Hardin Construction Company. "Cameron came up and asked some really good questions about why he should choose a career in construction. I told him I was a third generation construction man with 16 years experience, most of my dad's career has been in construction, and my grandfather worked construction before us. That seemed to get Cameron's attention."

Hardin Construction Company is always looking for motivated, qualified employees. As Hardin prepares to celebrate its 60th anniversary next year, more Camerons will have opportunities to grow a long and rewarding career in construction. Valuable careers in the construction industry are available, and many more will be available in the near future.

"It's really good what the construction industry is doing in partnership with CEFGA," said Mike Bullington, Senior Field Engineer. "Many of the people working in construction are baby boomers. They'll be retiring soon. We need a lot of people who want to learn, work in an interesting field and make really good money. Construction is the perfect mix of working with your hands and using your brain. We need to keep telling the young people about construction careers. We need to keep the Construction Career Expo going strong. That's where we met Cameron. We need more people like Cameron – people who can see success down the road."

Cameron decided construction might be the right career for him, so he applied for a position with Hardin. He became a part of Mike Bullington's field engineering crew.



Mike Bullington, right, and Eric Bullington, left, lay out the day's goals for Cameron Newell, center. Each workday begins with a discussion of the things to be completed for the day. "One of the best things about the work is that you have a clear set of goals to be completed each day," said Newell. "It helps you plan your day and know how well you did when it's time to leave."

"It's a great place for Cameron to be. He's a whiz at math and we have to be accurate to within less than a sixteenth of an inch," said the senior Mr. Bullington, his eyes sweeping the huge expanse of the project. "He's catching on really fast. He's way ahead of most guys who are relatively new on the job. Soon he'll be getting into blueprint reading and he'll get to see how it all comes together."

Asked what he likes about his new career, Cameron said, "I learn new things every day. How to use the instruments, how to enter data, and I'll be learning to use the field engineering software that inputs the data into the system. Also, the people here at Hardin are really nice and helpful. Mike was telling me that he worked on the layout of Spaghetti Junction. Every time he drives through there he has a real sense of accomplishment. I will look at this facility one day and know I had a hand in building it. I've made a great decision coming here."



Cameron Newell, seated, learns to use field engineering software under the guidance of Mike and Eric Bullington, a father and son field engineering team at Hardin Construction. "There is something new to learn everyday. The people here at Hardin are really nice and helpful," Newell said. The next big step will be learning to read and use blueprints to layout walls, parking lots and other major architectural design components.

Hardin Construction is indeed a great company to consider for a construction career. Bill Pinto, President and Chief Operating Officer of Hardin Construction, has long been a visionary in the industry. Bill Pinto served on the CEFGA Board of Directors for seven years and was President of the Board in 1996.

Scott Shelar, Executive Director of CEFGA, said, "Without Hardin Construction Company and Bill Pinto's leadership, CEFGA likely would not exist as an organization. It's satisfying to see Hardin Construction benefit directly from CEFGA's efforts with the recruitment of Cameron. And Cameron has found a good career with a great company."

The Construction Career Expo 2005 paired the construction industry with quality candidates and thus led to the hiring of a number of people. This year's participants are already looking forward to the Construction Career Expo 2006.