

## 2023 Associate Construction Management and Secondary (Construction Management and Architecture) Competition Judges Bio / Headshots

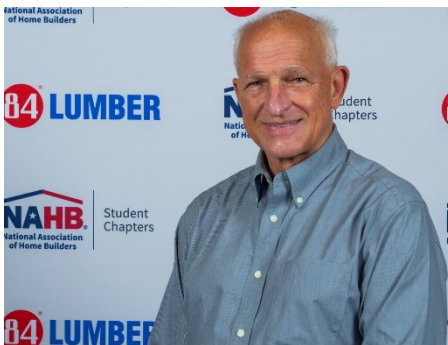


**Ed Kubiak**  
**Director of Builder Partnerships**

Ed's career began at a young age while cleaning job sites and moving lumber for his father's remodeling company. Through his high school years, he learned the craft of carpentry which sparked his passion for homebuilding. After graduating with a Construction Management degree from Illinois State University, he climbed the corporate ladder at Pulte Homes and was responsible for start-up and close-out of several communities and led teams building dozens of homes per month.

As a Vice President at Beechen & Dill Homes, he oversaw land development and homebuilding operations for the construction of hundreds of custom and semi-custom homes. In 2011, Beechen & Dill was named the HBAI's Builder of the Year and Ed was named to the class of 2017 '40 under 40' by Professional Builder Magazine.

Driven to help solve for the industry pain points he faced leading homebuilding teams for two decades, Ed joined Higharc in 2019 as Building Partnerships Lead. Higharc, a homebuilding automation platform, works with many top 100 builders to design, sell and build better homes across the country.



**Dean Soderbeck**

Dean is President of Soderbeck Design & Construction Inc., a family firm specializing in high-end custom homes and remodels in St. Paul, Minnesota. After graduating from Dunwoody Industrial Institute with a degree in

Architectural Drafting and Estimating in 1974, Dean learned multiple aspects of the construction industry: he worked for a custom home builder where he was responsible for architectural design, estimating, bidding, purchasing, and scheduling; he managed property in the commercial construction industry; and he earned his Real Estate Broker's License, specializing in subdivided land. Since opening his company in 1986, Dean's design work has been awarded multiple Parade of Homes "Emmy Awards," "Award of Excellence," and a National ICF award in 2006. Dean also utilized his vast knowledge of the construction industry to teach multiple courses at Dunwoody College of Technology for 12 years while still running his business. During that time, he started an NAHB Student Chapter and coached a two-year team competing at IBS for five years. Dean has been a NAHB Student Chapter Advisory Board since 2008. Dean has earned his CAPS, CDT, CGP, GSA certifications.



**Chris Nevins**

Chris Nevins is the Vice President of Operations for the Active Lifestyle Division of Shea Homes. He leads the construction and warranty teams in 17 master planned communities being built in 8 states. Chris is a seasoned construction professional with over 30 years, principally focused on the development of master planned communities. Chris spent the first part of his career in building and safety at the Cities of Palm Desert and Newport Beach, CA. He remains a Certified Building Official by the International Code Council. Chris also serves as volunteer President of a construction non-profit, Fuel the Mission, that has built schools and orphanages in Africa, India and Ecuador.



**W. Scott Thomas, M. Ed., MCCTE**

Prior to Scott's retirement in 2022, was an instructor of architectural design drafting for the Signature Architecture Program at Shadow Ridge High School, Dysart Unified School District, in Surprise, Arizona. Scott teaches residential and commercial architectural design, structural steel detailing/modeling, civil drafting, and GIS technology.

Scott has been a secondary and postsecondary educator for 42 years and is the owner and principal building designer of Thomas Design Associates, LLC. Scott also does extensive work with the Arizona Department of Education's CTE Division as a member of numerous architectural design drafting curriculum development and guidelines committees. During his teaching career, Scott has had national champions in architectural drafting competitions at the SkillsUSA National Leadership and Skills Conference in 2012 and 2014 (with Shadow Ridge High School) and in 2005 (with Northwest Education Center in Phoenix, Arizona). Additionally, Scott has had numerous National Association of Home Builder (NAHB) Student Design Championship wins in 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2022 while teaching at Shadow Ridge High School.

Scott's educational background includes a master's degree in career and technical education and a bachelor's degree in education from Northern Arizona University. He is a master certified career and technical educator (MCCTE) with the Association for Skilled and Technical Sciences (ASTS) and is a Director Emeritus of the American Design Drafting Association (ADDA).

Scott is the sole author of **Architecture: Residential Drafting and Design**, a Goodheart-Willcox Publisher, Inc. publication.



**Myles Cardenas**  
Land Development Manager  
McKinley Homes

Myles Cardenas has a passion for real estate, workforce development, community, and helping people. Currently working at McKinley Homes as a Senior Land Development Manager in Atlanta, Myles assists with the development of new communities from due diligence on new land deals, to building contracts and budgets, to managing land development activities, and assisting with community closeouts near the time that the last home is built in the community. Myles was previously a Land Development Manager and a Construction Manager at Lennar, and is a graduate with a Bachelor of Science in Construction Management of Kennesaw State University, where he was a member of the First-Place team in the Four-Year NAHB Student Competition in 2017. In addition, Myles has been heavily involved with Workforce Development initiatives of the National Association of Home Builders and the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association, focusing on influencing the next generation of the residential construction industry at the high school and college levels. He has used his experience in Development and Construction to build relationships, build synergy amongst all project teams, working with local governments, and helping people build their dream home.