

2023 Four-Year Custom/Small Home Build Judges Bios / Headshots



GT Karr

GT Karr is the owner of Sueppel's Remodeling established in Iowa City, Iowa in 1995. GT started working for Sueppel's in high school installing vinyl siding and windows. He earned a Construction Management degree from the University of Northern Iowa and returned to Sueppel's purchasing the company in 2002. GT has been involved with the Iowa City Area Home Builders Association since 2004 and currently serves as the Vocational Training Council president. He is passionate about supporting his community and creating pathways for youth to become involved in the trades.



Diana Wubbena

Diana Wubbena works as a Designer and Project Manager at McCreedy Ruth Construction, a custom residential construction general contractor in Iowa City, IA. Diana is actively involved in every aspect of new construction, remodeling, and addition projects, from project initiation and contracts to finish selections, project

management, and invoicing. She is the primary contact with customers throughout the entire design and construction process and works with drafting and estimating staff as well as owners and field crews to design, estimate, schedule and manage projects. Diana grew up surrounded by blueprints and walking through job sites with her father, a carpenter and small custom home builder. Construction is a second career for Diana, however, she leans on her background as a CPA and community volunteer on a daily basis in her current position. Diana is a member of the Greater Iowa City Area HBA and the local chapter of the NAHB's Professional Women in Building. She is a former student participant in the NAHB Student Competition, representing Kirkwood Community College, where she obtained her AAS in Construction Management.



David J. Becicka

Dave is an instructor of Construction Management at Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa. Before joining Kirkwood Community College in 2020, Dave worked for a commercial general contractor as a project manager, a residential single and multi-family builder/developer as a project manager, and also was a small business owner building custom homes. He has nearly 30 years of experience in the home building industry and is an active member of NAHB.



Aaron McGlynn

Aaron McGlynn is the General Manager of Mellinger and Sons Construction / Cabinet Works, a small family-owned custom home builder in Southeast Iowa. He has been with the company for 15 years and is active in the daily operations of both the construction company as well as a

custom cabinet/ millwork shop. He is active in all daily duties including purchasing, design, team management, and customer service. Prior to Mellinger and Sons Aaron spent 12 years at a local lumber company where he was in management, estimating and sales. Aaron has been active for nearly 10 years in his Local, State, and National HBA's. He has held many leadership roles with his most current including State President. Recently Aaron has transitioned to teaching ACE (Architecture, Construction, Engineering) as an Adjunct Instructor with Kirkwood Community College. He finds teaching very rewarding and is often able to offer a unique classroom experience for his students with his previous work experiences as well as his current position in the home building industry.



Sandy Steil

Sandy is the Director of Business Development for Bishop Engineering in Iowa City, IA. She moved to Iowa City to attend the University of Iowa after serving 4 years active duty in the United States Air Force. She graduated from the University with a bachelor's degree in 3D Design, with her main focus being architecture and design. Sandy has over 15 years of experience with architecture and civil engineering firms in central Iowa. Her experience with residential, commercial and industrial site development has given her extensive background and experience with developing sites in central Iowa. Sandy is the person you go to when you want to develop or re-develop a site and make something great for the community!

Sandy is very active in the community and has served on various boards over the years. She is currently on the Board of Directors and Legislative Committee for the Greater Iowa City Home Builders Association. She is also the creator and founder of the Home Improvement and Woodworking Confidence Courses for Women. The title of the courses was inspired by the Confidence Course Sandy went through in basic training. The home improvement confidence courses give women the opportunity to learn how to do basic and not so basic improvements in a real world remodeling environment free of judgement and comparison. The woodworking courses take you to the next level and introduce you to the tools, various wood species and techniques needed for creating the fine finishing work for home improvement and furniture projects.

Sandy was recently voted as on the top 25 Most Influential Leaders in the Cedar Rapids/Iowa City corridor.



Tim Ruth (alternate judge)

Tim Ruth has been involved in the construction industry since 1975. He has a degree in construction management from Kirkwood Community College. A four-year carpenter apprentice program was completed in 1983 through the University of Iowa.

As a project superintendent for Merit Construction for 6 years, Tim was responsible for on-site supervision and on time delivery of multi-million-dollar projects that were completed on time and on budget.

In 1997 Tim Ruth and Kevin McCreeedy formed McCreeedy Ruth Construction, LLC. What began as a two-person company now employs 15 people. McCreeedy Ruth Construction performs work all around eastern Iowa.

Tim has been active in the Iowa City Area HBA for several years. He has served as the President in 2015. He served on the Education Committee, bringing programs to the local contractors. He currently serves on the Kirkwood Community College Advisory Committee for the Construction Program. He received a Distinguished Alumni Award from Kirkwood and Clear Creek Amana High School. Tim has been actively involved with the ACE (Architectural, Construction and Engineering) Academy, which educates and recruits high school students who are interested in these trades. In 2018, Tim currently served as the President of the Iowa Homebuilders Association. He is currently the National Area Chair for the National Association of Homebuilders.

Tim was the 4 Vocational Training Council Chair. He helped start the Future Builders of Iowa; a group focused on promoting the trades in eastern Iowa.

He is currently the NAHB Vice-Chair of the National Safety & Health Committee and Chair of the Labor Immigration Committee. He serves at the National Area Chair for Area 10 which represents several midwestern states.

Tim has a passion for construction, and he works diligently to recruit young people into the trades. He has a unique ability to connect with them and shares his love of building with those who are interested. Tim works on behalf of fellow builders to improve government regulations for the building industry.