The Deep Foundations Institute (DFI) announced that Paul Axtell, Chief Operating Officer and a Senior Principal Engineer for Dan Brown and Associates, has been elected to the DFI Board of Trustees. Axtell has over 20 years of experience in geotechnical and foundation engineering. In recent years, Axtell has primarily focused on foundations for major bridge projects across the nation, delivered under various project delivery methods. He is the geotechnical engineer of record for eight Mississippi River Crossings and has acted as foundation design, construction, or load test consultant on several others.

Axtell received his BS in civil engineering from the University of Missouri, MO, USA, and his MS in engineering from the University of Texas, TX, USA, with a geotechnical emphasis. He is a licensed professional engineer in seven states and is a diplomate of the ASCE Academy of Geo-Professionals. Since 2013, he has served as Chair of the DFI Drilled Shaft Committee. He also serves on the ASCE Academy of Geo-Professionals Board of Directors and was recently admitted into the University of Missouri’s Civil Engineering Academy of Distinguished Alumni.

The Cemstone – TCC Materials Group appointed Nate Schroedl to Vice President of Information Technology. Schroedl joined the company in 2005 as a Security Analyst. Throughout his career with the Cemstone – TCC Materials Group, he has held several roles including Infrastructure Manager, Information Technology Manager, and the Director of Information Technology. Schroedl has been instrumental in leading several information technology initiatives, including converting, developing, and implementing electronic offerings; security awareness training; paperless initiatives; and reporting projects. Schroedl received his BS in applied information technology from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota, Winona, MN, USA.

Vita Inclinata (Vita) announced the addition of David Lee as Director of U.S. Industrial Sales. Lee joins the company after a year on Vita’s Board of Advisors and brings an unparalleled crane and safety skill set that promotes instant industry recognition and a deep understanding of the challenges crane professionals face when stabilizing loads. Lee will leverage his experience as a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 701, and as a several times over certified safety professional, to underscore Vita’s specific lift system advantages regarding mitigating the operational hazards of navigating and placing loads.

MAX appointed Adam Persiano as West Northeast Regional Sales Associate to support the growing sales effort throughout the United States and Canada. Persiano will work to provide improved support to local distributors. Persiano’s background in the construction industry has allowed him to grow his skill set as an established sales associate. Persiano started as a project manager, which led him to commercial sales. With over a decade of experience in the construction industry, he emphasizes open communication with his customers to increase sales, and his ability to build loyalty and trust fuels his success.

Honors and Awards

HCSS, a provider of innovative software solutions, announced that its CEO, Mike Rydin, has received the 2021 Lifetime Achievement Award from Vistage. The Lifetime Achievement Award honors long-standing members who see no finish line in their pursuit of world-class leadership. Rydin is the Founder and CEO of HCSS, a leader in estimating, operations, and fleet management software for the heavy construction industry since 1986. Rydin received his BA in philosophy and his BS in mathematics from Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, OK, USA, and has received numerous honors for the company he has created, including the 2008 National Center for Employee Ownership’s “Innovations in Employee Ownership Award,” the 2009 Wall Street Journal’s 15 Top Small Workplaces in America acknowledgment, and 14 consecutive years on the Best Places to Work in Texas list.

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