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Mentor Protégés

Belcher Consultants, Inc.
Belstar Cost Estimating (BCE)
Holland Home
Improvement/Construction
M.A. + Associates
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National Mentoring Month

January was National Mentoring Month, a nationwide campaign dedicated to celebrating and promoting youth mentoring. Mentoring is one of the biggest ways Belstar gives back to the community, offering formal and informal mentoring of firms, as well as internship opportunities.

The goals of National Mentoring Month are to:

- Raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms;
- Recruit individuals to mentor, especially in programs that have waiting lists of young people; and,
- Promote the rapid growth of mentoring by recruiting organizations to engage their constituents in mentoring.

Like most things, mentoring has been affected by COVID-19. To ensure physical distancing does not mean social disconnection, leading experts on mentoring launched the [Virtual Mentoring Portal](#), where you can find an e-mentoring guide, tips for shifting to a text-based communication, and many other mentoring resources.

If you have been a mentor in the past and would like to share your story, learn more on how to do that [here](#). If you would like to find more information on becoming a mentor, click [here](#). For more content about mentoring, like this video on how to [amplify your impact](#), and for more details on what you can do in your own community, please visit <https://www.mentoring.org/>.

Black History Month

February was Black History Month, a time to celebrate the lives and historic contributions of Black Americans. Black History Month was developed by Carter G. Woodson, who is known as the "Father of Black History." Woodson was born in Virginia, the son of parents who had been enslaved. The author and historian was also the second African American to earn a Ph.D. at Harvard University. He was quoted as saying, "Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history." Woodson believed it was of paramount importance for African American youth to know, understand and be proud of their heritage. Due to the lack of information in the American education system about the accomplishments of African Americans, Woodson founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, now called the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH).

"The Black Family: Representation, Identity, and Diversity" was the theme of Black History Month 2021. This year, many institutions offered digital programming for those celebrating at home, such as the ASALH's Virtual Black History Month Festival. Content from this festival is still available online, [here](#). The NAACP [offered ideas](#) for what brands could do to support Black History Month. Although the National Museum of African American History and Culture is temporarily closed due to COVID-19, [virtual exhibits](#), [online collections](#), [digital resources](#) and [virtual events](#) are available to celebrate and explore any time of year.

Why Choose Belstar

- Core Values
Trust - Faith In Others
Shared Values - Common Goals
Effective Communication - Good Listeners
Humble Leadership - Shared Spotlight
Empowerment - All of the above
*By Lon Solomon (3/5/2000)
- Facility/ Program / Project / Construction Management / Cost Engineering / Cost Management / Dispute Resolutions and Claims Analysis / Scheduling
- 36 Year Record of Performance
- Fees average 20% for combined Office / 15% for Field Below similar-sized firms

The Rest of Our Team:

- Blackthorn Law Group
- Rees Broome, PC
- EagleBank
- Hertzbach & Company, P.A.
- MacConel & Dodd CPA
- Sapient Consulting

It is at this time that Belstar would like to pay tribute to the founder of Belstar, Inc., Daniel Joseph Belcher, Sr. Mr. Belcher founded Belstar in 1985 and was a successful author and graduate of the Agricultural and Technical State University in North Carolina. If you would like more information about Mr. Belcher's book, [My Catching Ups](#), please contact Gina Welc at gmwelc@belstar.com.

Women's History Month

March is Women's History Month in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Australia. Canada celebrates Women's History in October. This celebration of the often-overlooked contributions women have made to culture and society can be traced as far back as 1911. Since then, March 8 has been International Women's Day, a global celebration of the economic, political and social achievements of women. However, it wasn't until 1987 that Congress expanded the observance to include the entire month of March.

Since many of the centennial celebrations that were planned for 2020 had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, the National Women's History Alliance extended the theme for 2020 to 2021, "Valiant Women of the Vote: Refusing to Be Silenced." The organization said, "The National Women's History Alliance is determined that the important roles of multicultural suffragists and voting rights activists continue to be recognized and honored. We refuse to allow their voices to be silenced, even by a pandemic."

Whether you click through to learn more about [Shirley Chisholm](#), the first Black woman to run for president, or Nobel Peace Prize-nominee [Stacey Abrams](#), or you simply click through photo galleries of [women leaders](#), [women in sports](#), [women in arts](#), [women in science](#), we hope you take some time during March to appreciate the immeasurable impact women have had on society.

Project Wins

Belstar, as part of the AECOM team, has been awarded task order #4 for the Amtrak City Regional Maintenance Facility.

During the first quarter of 2021, Amtrak awarded the Belstar team new commissioning task orders in Pennsylvania, California, Washington State, Missouri, Arizona and Indiana.

Click [here](#) to see a comprehensive list of Belstar projects at www.Belstar.com

Promotions and Recognitions

Belstar would like to wish a Happy Birthday to team member Hassan Kobrosli, who celebrated his Birthday on February 20.

Belstar would also like to celebrate the following work anniversaries in 2021:

Bill Gray – 10 year
Yama Ebrahimi – 5 years

Charitable Donations

Compassion for the Benefit of Rose-Carline Petit Frere

ACE Mentor Program



Belstar is a sponsor of the Architecture, Construction and Engineering (ACE) Mentor Program of the Greater Washington Metropolitan Area. This program is now virtual, with students and mentor architects, engineers and contractors meeting for virtual sessions. These sessions can be attended via Chromebook, phone, tablet or PC, and include a brief introduction to an ACE topic, followed by

hands on activities and design challenges. Materials used for activities and challenges are common household items. Students may also join optional All Affiliate Webinars for virtual construction tours, sketch up tutorials and other engaging opportunities.

The ACE Mentor Program will celebrate the 2021 scholarship winners during a virtual event to be held May 19, 2021 at 8:00 AM. The event will include highlighting remarks from a keynote speaker.

During the first quarter of 2021, ACE DC has 15 teams doing virtual programming, and will be receiving scholarship applications until March 31, 2021. Two of the virtual teams are submitting projects for a national ACE competition. All teams are preparing for the Student Presentation Night, which will be held in May.

To stay up to date on ACE DC program, please visit their [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages. During these challenging times, financial support is still very much needed. **If you are able and interested in supporting this worthwhile cause, please contact washingtondc@acemmentor.org. If you are interested in becoming a member, please find more info [here](#).**

The Washington Architectural Foundation's Fall Design Fête

The Washington Architectural Foundation's Fall Design Fête was held virtually on Friday, October 30, 2020. This event celebrates individuals who make Washington D.C. better through their contributions as designers, advocates, and clients. The 2020 honorees were:

Steven Spurlock, FAIA

Centennial Medal for Service to the Chapter, the community and profession

Earl Alexander "Rusty" Powell, III

Glenn Brown Award, honoring an individual who has raised public awareness of architecture and its benefits to society and who has improved the quality of life in Washington, DC

Alison Pavilonis, AIA

Emerging Architect Award

Ruben Quesada, Assoc. AIA

John 'Wieb' Wiebenson Award for Architecture in the Public Interest

Lindsey May, AIA

Architect Educator Award

HITT Contracting's Co | Lab Project

Partnership for the Planet Award

Donald B. Myer, FAIA

Donald B. Myer, FAIA Public Service Award

The Washington Architectural Foundation thanks you for your support of the Fall

Design Fête. The Washington Architectural Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization. Contributions are tax deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

Sponsorships

Rose-Carline Petit-Frere

Belstar has been sponsoring Rose-Carline Petit-Frere from 2004 to present. Compassion International is a faith based charitable organization that fights poverty personally. They are a child-focused organization. They work with the neediest and most vulnerable children – the poorest of the poor; to the children in greatest need, without ulterior motive because they are a “love thy neighbor” organization/ministry.



Their child Sponsorship Program offers:

- Medical checkups and health care
- Ongoing Christian training through a local church
- Key life skills training, mentoring and vocational programs
- Nutritious food and supplements to protect against malnutrition
- Recreational activities and support to develop self-confidence and social skills
- Protection from crime, violence and danger
- Access to special services like surgeries and disaster relief
- Educational assistance, including textbooks, school uniforms, post-secondary courses, tutoring, test and lab supplies and even literacy and financial training for caregivers

If interested in sponsoring a child, please call 1-800-336-7676; or you can visit their website at <http://www.compassion.com>.

Kathryn Baker

Belstar began sponsoring Kathryn Baker in 2019 and will continue until 2021. Ms. Baker is a medical student at West Virginia University with clinical rotations in Internal medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Pediatrics and OB/Gyn. She plans to pursue a Preventive Medicine residency upon completing medical school with hopes of dedicating her career to helping patients naturally prevent and reverse chronic diseases through lifestyle behavior changes.



In addition to serving as a physician, she hopes to be an active advocate for healthy lifestyle habits in the community through public outreach programs and education development. A few recent accomplishments include:

- In October 2019, Ms. Baker helped create a public outreach program to educate middle and high school students on the effects of e-cigarette smoking in Berkeley County, West Virginia.
- In April 2020, Ms. Baker was accepted to present a research poster at the American College of Physicians in Los Angeles, California. The poster was on a case of Vaping-Induced Lung Injury.
- In May 2020, Ms. Baker was granted the Michael L. Friedland Award for

demonstrating achievement in self-learning in the integrated clinical curriculum at the WVU SOM Eastern Division.

Another sponsor of Ms. Baker is Dr. Charles Gardner, MD, graduate of the West Virginia School of Medicine and of the Virginia Military Institute.

If you would like to help sponsor Ms. Baker or find out more information, you can e-mail her at <mailto:kbaker17@mix.wvu.edu>.

www.Belstar.com

- Be sure to visit www.Belstar.com for more information regarding Belstar's [internships](#).
- Watch for an updated listing of Belstar's past and present projects in the [Projects section](#).