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### Project Wins

McDonough Bolyard Peck, Inc. invited Belstar to join its Town of Christiansburg Engineering Department construction, engineering, and inspection term services contract.

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

### Promotions and Recognitions

Belstar would like to wish Hassan Kobrosli a Happy Birthday, which was celebrated on February 20, during the first quarter of 2025.

Belstar would also like to congratulate the following employees who are celebrating milestone anniversaries in 2025:

Gina Welc 20 Years  
Mark Schwindt Five Years

### Charitable Donations

Compassion – For the benefit of Richica from Haiti

## Special Announcements

### Mentor Protégés

Belcher Consultants, Inc.  
[Belstar Cost Estimating \(BCE\)](#)  
[Holland Home Improvement/Construction](#)  
[M.A. + Associates](#)  
[Millennium Institute of Construction \(MIC\)](#)

### Why Choose Belstar

#### Core Values

\*Trust - Faith In Others

\*Shared Values - Common Goals

\*Effective Communication - Good Listeners

\*Humble Leadership

- Shared Spotlight



### National Mentoring Month

January marked the 23rd anniversary of National Mentoring Month, an annual observance that

**\*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 / Commissioning

40 Year Record of Performance

Fees average 20% for combined Office / 15% for Field  
Below similar-sized firms

celebrates and promotes how mentoring shapes lives, communities, and careers. Established in 2002 by MENTOR, a non-profit organization focused on expanding opportunities for young people by building a youth mentoring field and movement, and the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, this month-long campaign encourages organizations and individuals to get involved and highlights the positive impact that mentoring relationships have on young people.

This year, National Mentoring Month continued its mission of expanding access to mentorship opportunities, advocating for the importance of guidance and support in personal and professional growth, and fostering meaningful connections. Key dates included:

- January 11 - I Am a Mentor Day, celebrating mentors and their contributions
- January 17 - International Mentoring Day, honoring the global impact of mentorship
- January 25 - Thank Your Mentor Day, a day to show appreciation to mentors

Mentoring plays a big role in how Belstar gives back to the community by offering formal and informal mentoring of firms and internship opportunities. Belstar has seen firsthand the benefits of mentoring, ensuring young people are connected with dependable examples to work with and look up to in their communities, and celebrating the power of relationships.

If you are interested in becoming a mentor or finding a mentor, [click here](#) for more information, or visit [the Mentoring Connector](#), a free database of national mentoring programs, and explore mentoring opportunities available year-round.

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## Black History Month

February was Black History Month, an annual celebration of the achievements, contributions, and history of African Americans in the United States and beyond. It is a time to reflect on the triumphs, culture, and struggles of African Americans throughout history. This observance began as Negro History Week in 1926, founded by Harvard-trained historian [Carter G. Woodson](#), and the Association for the Study of African American Life and History. The second week of February was chosen as the time to celebrate as it coincides with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln. In 1976, President Gerald Ford expanded the observance to a full month and officially recognized it as a time to honor Black history.

The Black History Month theme for 2025 is "African Americans and Labor" focusing on the profound ways that work of all kinds intersects with the collective experience of Black Americans. The National Museum of African American History and Culture's exhibit,



"Invisible Changemakers of Industry" highlights people such as [Elizabeth Keckley](#), an enslaved seamstress who became the personal dressmaker of Mary Todd Lincoln. "With my needle, I kept bread in the mouths of seventeen persons for two years and five months," said Keckley, who eventually bought her way out of slavery and eventually owned a shop in Washington, D.C. There is also the exhibit, "[Making A Way Out Of No Way](#)" exploring the ways that Black Americans created ways to serve and strengthen their communities through education, religious institutions, businesses, the press, and organizations.

[Click here](#) for the National Museum of African American History and Culture's online Searchable Museum, a place to explore history and culture through an African American lens. For passes to the museum, [click here](#).

## Women's History Month



March is Women's History Month and the 2025 theme is "Moving Forward Together! Women Educating & Inspiring Generations." This theme celebrates the collective strength and influence women who have dedicated their lives to leadership, mentorship, and education have had on past and present generations. During this time, we recognize the vital roles women have played in shaping society, from arts and activism to science and politics.

First observed in 1911 as International Women's Day, Women's History Month gained greater recognition in the late 20th century. President Jimmy Carter declared the week of March 8 as National Women's History Week in 1980. By 1987, advocacy by organizations like the National Women's History Alliance led to the expansion of the celebration to the entire month of March.

Click [here](#) for a Women's History Toolkit, meant to engage and inspire, and [here](#) for Women's History Month events in the Washington, D.C. area. Let us remember during this time that women's history is an indispensable part of our national narrative. We gain a fuller, more accurate understanding of our collective past by understanding the contributions, struggles, and incredible achievements women have made throughout history.



Mark your calendar for ACE DC's 25th Annual Scholarship Awards Breakfast. The breakfast will be held on May 12th, 2025 at the InterContinental Washington D.C. at 801 Wharf St. SW, Washington, D.C. This celebration provides networking opportunities and is where ACE DC awards thousands of dollars in college scholarships to students interested

in pursuing careers in architecture, construction, and engineering.

Belstar is a sponsor of the ACE DC Mentor Program. Established in 2000, ACE DC has mentored 2100 DC-area students and distributed 25 scholarships worth more than \$800,000. One of the ways ACE DC raises scholarship funds is through the ACE DC Gingerbread Design & Build Competition, which took place in December 2024, with winners announced in January 2025. The winners were:



**Popular Vote Winner:** Thornton Tomasetti's Oriole Park on Chew-Taw Street



**Popular Vote Runner Up:** Hensel Phelps Kalahari Resort in Spotsylvania



**Popular Vote Runner Up:** DPR Construction Inova Hospital Patient Tower

This fun and friendly confectionary contest had 21 teams participate and raised over \$19,000 for ACE DC scholarships and programming.

To stay up to date on the ACE DC program, please visit their [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

If you are able and interested in supporting this worthwhile cause, please contact [washingtondc@acementor.org](mailto:washingtondc@acementor.org). If you are interest in becoming a mentor, please find more information [here](#). If you would like to donate to the organization, click below.

**BECOME AN ACE DC SPONSOR TODAY**



# The Washington Architectural Foundation's Fall Design Fête



The Washington Architectural Foundation's Fall Design Fête was held November 15, 2024 at the [National Museum of Women in the Arts](#) in Washington, DC. The event included a cocktail reception, seated dinner, and program. Celebrating the architecture and design community, the event honored several worthy individuals and programs that have made Washington a better city through their contributions as designers, advocates, and clients.

The 2024 honorees were:

2024 Centennial Medal Winner – Yolanda Cole, FAIA

2024 Glenn Brown Award Winner – Uwe Brandes

2024 Architect Educator Award Winner – Amy Gardner, FAIA

2024 Emerging Architect Winner – Kumi Wickramanayaka, AIA

2024 Wieb Award Winner – Ian Walker

2024 Partnership for the Planet Award Winner – Heather Jauregui, AIA

2024 Donald B. Myer Award for Public Service – Brian J. Hanlon, AIA

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

[DONATE NOW](#)

## Sponsorships



***Time  
Flies  
When  
You're  
Changing  
Lives***



In 2024, Belstar celebrated their 20 year "Sponsor-versary" of partnering with the Compassion organization to help make a positive impact on the lives of Carline and now Richica.

## Richica

Richica is a six-year-old girl from Haiti. Belstar's past "sponsee", Carline, was also from Haiti. Belstar looks forward to providing the same support and guidance to Richica that we did for Carline!

The Compassion International 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



## Kathryn McQueen, MD

Congratulations to Kathryn McQueen, MD. Belstar began sponsoring her in 2019 as a medical student at West Virginia University with clinical rotations in Internal medicine, Surgery, Psychiatry, Family Medicine, Pediatrics, and OB/GYN. Now that she has graduated, Dr. McQueen will be pursuing a residency with Harpers Ferry Family Medicine.

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

\*In October 2019, Dr. McQueen 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, Dr. McQueen 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, Dr. McQueen was granted the Michael L. Friedland Award for demonstrating achievement in self-learning in the integrated clinical curriculum at the

Another sponsor of Dr. McQueen 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 Dr. McQueen or find out more information, you can e-mail her at: [kamcqueen25@gmail.com](mailto:kamcqueen25@gmail.com).



[www.Belstar.com](http://www.Belstar.com)

- Be sure to visit [www.Belstar.com](http://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](#).

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