



EDMONTON – For immediate release

Merit Recognizes Top Construction Employees, Apprentices and Employers

EDMONTON, AB – June 13, 2012 – Merit Contractors Association held its 26th Annual General Meeting and Awards Gala on Tuesday, June 12 at the Royal Glenora Club in Edmonton.

The award ceremony recognized the top construction apprentices, employees and employers among Merit's 1,300-plus member companies for the year 2011. The winners were selected by an independent judging committee from nominations submitted by Merit company employees.

Edmonton's Fillmore Construction won two awards – a George Durocher Employer of Excellence Award for commitment to human resource development as well as the prestigious Willard Kirkpatrick Award for excellence in promoting training in the construction industry.

Also among the winners of the George Durocher Award were two other Edmonton-based companies, Synergy Projects Ltd. and Teamco Construction.

The award gala recognized four top apprentices – for first, second, third and fourth periods respectively. The winners included electricians Justin Thibault and Henry George of Muth Electrical Management Inc. in Edmonton, HVAC technician Patrick Newport of Pioneer Air Ltd. in Calgary, and Mike Hofmann, an apprentice electrician with Stellar Electrical Edmonton Inc.

The ceremony also honoured Merit's top employees with the Merit-Royal SunAlliance Awards. The winners for 2011 were Adam Fearon, a journeyman carpenter with Clark Builders in Edmonton, Mike Bulger, a labour foreman also with Clark Builders, and Jeffrey Young, a lead hand with Red Deer-based Phoenix Construction.

Merit's newly elected chairman Joel Thompson commended the winners as exemplifying Merit's commitment to provide top quality human services to the construction industry. "We don't do a lot of a self-congratulation in this business," he said. "But if we're to continue raising the bar in our industry, we have to take the time to celebrate our successes."

The winners will be recognized for a second time today at Merit's AGM Luncheon and Award Gala hosted by Merit's southern Alberta office in Calgary.

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