



FEATURED PROJECT:

Argonne National Labs Chilled Water Plant

Block Electric recently completed a successful project of installing transformers and supporting switchgear at the Argonne National Laboratories Chilled Water Plant in Argonne, Illinois under the supervision of Jim McCormick, Foreman Adam Mellen, and the crew Gary Crutchfield, Kris Hajek, Mike Kammers, and Jason Moore.

Block's long-standing relationship with Argonne dates back at least ten years and is yet

another example of how Customer Delight and having a good, long-standing relationship with customers is crucial to securing future projects.

The project involved the installation of 3x 3000/4000 MVA transformers and supporting switchgear equipment at the existing Argonne B528 Chilled Water Plant.

Building 528, Argonne CWP, is a critical utility for Laboratory's 200 Area of their campus.

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President's Message



Work seems to be recovering. This year has unfolded many interesting projects from more schools to specialized projects. The private sector work has started to come back and the

public sector remains very strong. We have adapted our construction styles to blend with the many new challenges that both public and private work have created. We hope to finish the year with a strong backlog.

Here's the challenge for this year. As our workforce grows and our pool of talent increases can we continue to keep our Customers "Delighted"? If we can, then we have accomplished one of our foremost goals. If we cannot, then we fall into the old trap of just being an average contractor. New talent in our workforce brings forth new ideas and new methods for "getting the job done". It always benefits us to seek out new talent and new ideas on how to accomplish our goal of working safely with quality and efficiency. I am looking forward to the remainder of this year. It is going to bring many new challenges and many more creative solutions. Working together we can solve anything. The important thing is to keep our Customers satisfied and "Delighted". The results are easily measurable by the quantity of repeat work we get from each customer. Repeat work is always a barometer for the future. The last 5 years have been difficult and I hope the worst is behind us and we can continue to grow and be recognized as one of the "Best" contractors in this industry.

On another note, our number of scholarships has come to an all time high and while our policy limits individual scholarships, we try to accommodate in some way everyone who is eligible. It is great to see so many of our children graduate from high school and go on to college. In addition, it is very gratifying to know that we, as a company, are able to play a small roll in that process.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer. It goes way too fast!

—JACK BLOCK



Customer Delight

A letter from Thomas Howe
Project Manager, Argonne Facilities Management
Service & Leadership Computing Facility

I would like to take the opportunity to point out the excellent service Argonne received from Block on the recent project of subject. More specifically, the combination of field personnel and management had outperformed many services provided by other contractors alike. Jim McCormick was always prompt in responding to inquiries. He held a systematic approach to each issue and was very well organized throughout the project. For example, when Argonne's SME requested that Block provide a log of the torquing of the bolts. Jim coordinated a simple diagram of the torque of each bolt. It's somewhat seemingly unimpressive, but Jim wasn't given any specific direction and it's just an example how he easily and without gripe handled each and every issue to Argonne's satisfaction. Also, I owe Jim a great amount of gratitude on that particularly because that same SME was a lot more cooperative on my projects because of Jim's level demeanor and accommodating attitude, which is not typical of that particular SME.

The quality of work performed in the field by Block Electric, namely Adam Mellen, was outstanding. Any inconsistencies in the field were promptly communicated to Argonne field personnel and dealt with in a professional manner. Personally, whenever I visited and inspected the site, Adam was approachable, informative and accommodating. I don't think you have a better field tech than Adam.

I hope your team's experience for this project was a positive one for your company as well, and you can be assured I will be reaching out to Jim for any future opportunities that I come across. Thank you for putting these outstanding professionals on the project.

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It provides the necessary chilled water to many of the adjacent buildings including the Energy Science Building and Theory and Computing Science Building. Most importantly it provides the necessary cooling to Argonne's Leadership Computing Facility that hosts one of the world's fastest computers: Mira. Mira is a water cooled supercomputer that operates 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, and can pull nearly 1,300 tons from the CWP.

This five-month project, which was awarded

on December 13, 2013 and was completed on May 16, 2014, was critical to the Laboratory for two reasons. First and foremost, it provided the added redundancy to the power infrastructure at the CWP. For example, if Argonne lost it's primary transformer, it could still support the cooling from the redundant transformer installed by Block.

Secondly, it provided the added power to the CWP to support a planned expansion to the CWP building for additional cooling equipment. The

"The quality of work performed in the field by Block Electric was outstanding."



additional cooling equipment will be used for Argonne's next supercomputer and next major building installation.

Surrounded by the highest concentration of top-tier research organizations in the world, Argonne leverages its Chicago-area location to lead discovery and to power innovation in a wide range of core scientific capabilities, from high-energy physics and materials science to structural biology and advanced computer science.



—Thomas Howe, Project Manager, Argonne Facilities Management Service & Lead



Spotlight On: Scott Schultz

PROJECT MANAGER



Project Manager Scott Schultz studied electrical engineering at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, where he received a soccer scholarship.

While studying at Olivet, Scott realized he wanted to be more “hands-on” and looked into the IBEW apprenticeship and was accepted into the program in November of 2000.

Scott, who grew up in Limestone and went to Herscher High School, joined the Block Electric team on May 17, 2005 and worked on the Sheridan Prison project.

“It has been a pleasure to work with the various project managers, general foreman, foreman and all of the electricians that Block Electric has working for them,” Scott said. “I take pride in all jobs that I do both personally and professionally.”

However, Scott said he was “most proud of” being a part of the Silver Cross Hospital project, TroyShorewood School, Elwood Municipal Center, Joliet West Fieldhouse, and the design/build of the Parkview Orthopedics building.

“Each of those jobs was unique and I learned many different things while working at each location,” Scott said. “It is very rewarding to know that all of the hard work and stress that went into the building process resulted in an awesome completed project and another delighted customer.”

Scott has been married to his wife Danika for 8 years and they have two beautiful daughters—Lyla, 4 and Lucy, 1. The couple spends a lot of time with the girls going to dance, gymnastics, and music classes.

“Both girls have a lot of energy and personality and keep us on our toes,” Scott said.

In his free time, Scott enjoys biking and woodworking. “I have built many of the items we have in our home, including the crib we used for both girls,” Scott said.

Scott and Danika built a home in Bourbonnais during the summer of 2012 and are currently working on the landscaping.

“I would like to thank all of the people around me, both at home and work, that have helped me get to where I am today,” Scott said.

A thank you from scholarship recipient Bridget Hughes



My name is Bridget Hughes. I am a 2014 graduate of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL. I graduated

on the Dean's List with my Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN).

Shortly after graduating this past May, I took The National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses (NCLEXRN) and fortunately passed on my first attempt.

This month, I begin working as a Registered Nurse (RN) at Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn, IL, on the Inpatient Adult Rehabilitation Unit.

I have wanted to be a nurse ever since I can remember.

With that being said, my advice to any college student would be to set goals and work hard until you achieve them.

All of us are blessed with some form of support system to ease the pain of student loans; whether it is family, friends, colleagues, a generous business such as Block Electric, or all of the above.

But trust me, hard work does pay off! I am very grateful for the Block Electric Scholarship I have earned throughout my undergraduate academic career.

— *With gratitude,*
Bridget Hughes, RN, BSN
Trinity Christian College '14

2014-2015 Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to the following Block Electric Scholarship Recipients for the 2014-2015 School Year!



Tim Arvesen, son of Mike and Sue Arvesen. Tim is attending St. Ambrose University.



Allison Benninger, daughter of Mike and Nancy Benninger. Allison is attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.



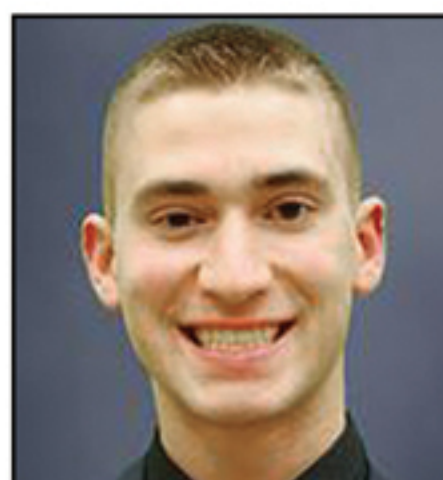
Andrew Boyce, son of Drew and Therese Boyce. Andrew is attending the University of Notre Dame.



Maura Boyce, daughter of Drew and Therese Boyce. Maura is attending Marquette University.



Adam Hughes, son of Jerry and Sharon Hughes. Adam will attend Indiana University.



Gary Jones, son of Gary and Marsha Jones. Gary is attending Loyola University of Chicago.



Jillian Martin, daughter of Jerry and Anne Martin. Jillian is attending University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



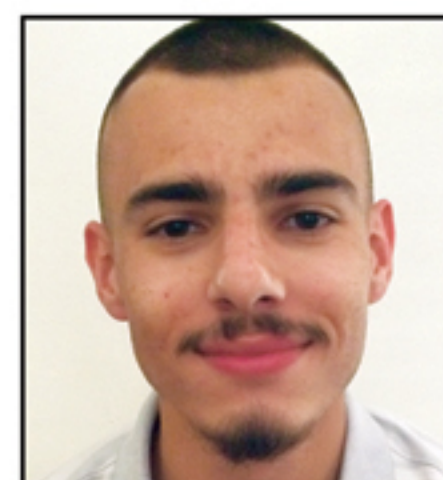
Rachel Martin, daughter of Jerry and Anne Martin. Rachel will attend Marquette University.



Kristina Lynn McCormick, daughter of Chris and Tammy McCormick. Kristina is attending Illinois State University.



Chelsie McCormick, daughter of Jim and Rhonda McCormick. Chelsie is attending St. Frances in Joliet.



Andre Morsy, son of Kathy Mota. Andre is attending DePaul University.



Kevin Phee, son of Pat and Shelley Phee. Kevin will attend Southern Illinois University-Carbondale.



Abigail Vanderhyden, daughter of Tim and Paige Vanderhyden. Abigail will attend the University of Illinois at Chicago.



Courtney VanDreese, daughter of Greg and Rhonda VanDreese. Courtney is attending Northern Illinois University.

Happy Anniversary Pat

Congratulations to Pat Phee for his 35 years of loyalty, service and dedication to Block Electric. He began working at Block on June 18, 1979.



Welcome Journeyman Tim Matile

Congratulations to Tim Matile, who became a journeyman on April 6, 2014.

Block Electric Company
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The **Block Connection** *Customer Delight Since 1920*



Block Electric Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

SAFETY is a never-ending job

When things on the job are going along smoothly and mishaps/accidents are not occurring, we can become too relaxed about safety.

The job of safety is a never-ending one and must be emphasized by everyone at all times. Safety is similar to quality—it must be constantly pursued. Supervisors, foreman and employees in general should be constantly alert for unsafe acts

by coworkers. Activities such as running, horseplay, jumping off of docks, piers, equipment or any elevation can and do result in serious injuries.

Shortcuts in acceptable work procedures cause injuries and damage to equipment. This includes inappropriate use of tools, such as using a screwdriver for a prying tool, failure to wear personal protective equipment for a short job, and removing an equipment guard “for just a moment”.

If we forget to reemphasize these fundamental safety precautions, there will be accidents.

We can learn valuable safety lessons and prevent recurring accidents by discussing past accidents.

We cannot sit around and wait for every type of accident to occur before we take steps to stop them. **Be proactive—take action before the accident by correcting unsafe acts and conditions.**

A good safety program is based on **preventing future accidents**, not reactively discussing them. To be ahead and stay ahead, **safety must be addressed every day.** Training of employees, inspection of equipment, job pre-planning and discussions of new hazards is an ongoing task.

If you relax the emphasis on safety, you will be reactively discussing what COULD have been done to prevent the incident.

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