



FEATURED PROJECT

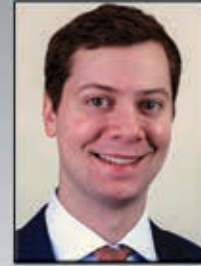
Northwestern University Mudd Hall Expansion



The Northwestern University Mudd Hall Expansion Project was 100% BIM coordinated and took full advantage of Block Electric's new fabrication shop run by Luke Simpson.

(See story on page 4)

Vice President's Message



As we head into what is going to be a very busy Summer for Block Electric, I would like everyone to focus on a few important topics:

Safety, Quality, and Customer Delight.

It's so important in today's fast paced construction environment to think before you act. I know that sounds cliché, but without thinking ahead, problems will occur. Trying to take shortcuts in this industry will only lead to mistakes that sometimes can't be fixed. Using practical pre-planning methods will help increase safety, improve workmanship, increase efficiencies, and ultimately keep our customers happy. I suggest consulting with your Foreman, Project Manager, Superintendent, or others on helpful ways to pre-plan.

This Spring we received our annual Contractor's Score, which is completed by a rating agency that scores contractors based on financial strength and backlog. I am proud to report that not only did we receive the highest score in the history of our Company, but also the maximum possible score that the rating agency gives—2500. Having a higher score is very appealing to our customers when they look to partner with a contractor that they know will be reliable and qualified to take on certain projects.

(Continued on page 2)



Vice President's Message

(Continued from page 1)

As you will read in our featured project, I would like to personally thank everyone who put their hard work into building the Northwestern University Mudd Hall Expansion Project. Not only did the project team overcome the challenge of an extremely condensed schedule, but we have maintained a relationship with Walsh to continue building out the next floor of the Library and an additional lab on the first floor. This is yet another example of Customer Delight.

Some of our recently added projects include the following:

- Schaumburg Park District Renovation
- O'Hare Airport – ARFF Building
- Romeoville High School Administration Renovation
- UIC Nursing Simulation Labs
- Akzo – Nitrile De-Bottleneck
- O'Hare Airport – Ring and Tunnel Repairs
- Studio III Fitness Center

Have a safe and healthy Summer.

— **SCOTT BLOCK**

Spotlight On: Nick Dickson FOREMAN

“You can be working in a sterile operating room one day and be in a muddy trench the next,” Foreman Nick Dickson said when describing the versatility of his job at Block Electric.

Nick, who began working for Block Electric in 2007, recently wrapped up his work on this issue's featured project, the Northwestern University Mudd Hall Expansion Project. Nick is now working on the CSH Senior Living project in Glenview. Prior to the Mudd Hall job, Nick worked on various Meijer store projects.



“I am proud of all of the customer experiences that I have had with Block. I've met and worked with a lot of great people.”

— **Foreman Nick Dickson**

“I am proud of all of the customer experiences that I have had with Block. I've met and worked with a lot of great people,” Nick said while reflecting on his time at Block Electric.

Prior to starting his job at Block Electric, Nick attended community college and worked in a billiards warehouse picking and packing orders. Then Nick's Aunt Bridgette told his Dad about the apprenticeship program. “So I looked into it and it sounded a lot better than working in a warehouse, so I signed up,” Nick said.

Nick lives in Lake Villa, Illinois with his wife Ashley and their two children—Trevor who is 3 years old; and Travis, who is 18 months old.

Nick's home life varies from day to day as much as the jobs he works on at Block Electric.

“On any given day we can be found in the yard doing one of many things that include teaching Trevor to ride a dirt bike, riding Travis' power wheels, throwing rocks in the creek, throwing the ball for the dog, driving R/C cars, going down the slide, digging holes with the tractor or watering the new apple trees,” Nick said.

In his spare time, Nick enjoys an active outdoor life, including offloading in his jeep or RZR, riding dirt bikes and ATV's, camping, hiking, R/C cars and “just about anything outdoors, especially if it has a motor.”

Nick and Ashley have had some adventures of their own, including hiking the highest summit in Utah and skydiving in Moab, Utah during their first trip out west.

2018-2019 Block Electric Scholarship Recipients

Congratulations to our 2018-2019 Block Electric Scholarship Recipients. We wish you all the best of luck this year and in the future!



Dana Blaszyński, daughter of Greg and Donna Blaszyński. Dana is attending Iowa State University.



William Kuta, son of Bill and Gina Kuta. William will attend Iowa State University.



Morgan Giusto, daughter of Todd and Lisa Giusto. Morgan is attending Northern Illinois University.



Ross McCormick, son of Jim and Rhonda McCormick. Ross is attending Lewis University.



Melanie Jones, daughter of Gary and Marsha Jones. Melanie is attending Eastern Illinois University.



Conner Quigley, son of John and Cynthia Quigley. Conner will attend Bradley University in Peoria.



Tiffany Kuta, daughter of Bill and Gina Kuta. Tiffany is attending University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.



Zachary Van Dreese, son of Greg and Ronda Van Dreese. Zachary will attend University of Wisconsin-Madison.

A Thank You from Block Electric Scholarship Recipient Adam Hughes



Hello, my name is Adam Hughes and I am a recent graduate from Indiana University's School of Informatics, Computing, and Engineering. I received my

bachelor of science in Informatics with minors in Human-Centered Computing and Sociology, earning a place on the Dean's list in my last three semesters.

I am also a four-year recipient of the Block Electric college scholarship. The burden of costs for a four-year university education these days are staggering. The annual BEC scholarship was very helpful. Thanks to the Block Electric scholarship, I was able to better focus on my studies and career aspirations.

In May I began my career as a technical consultant in Chicago. Without the help of my family and Block Electric, it would have been harder for me to get to where I am today. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to attend Indiana University and receive an outstanding education, as well as meet a lot of amazing people along the way.

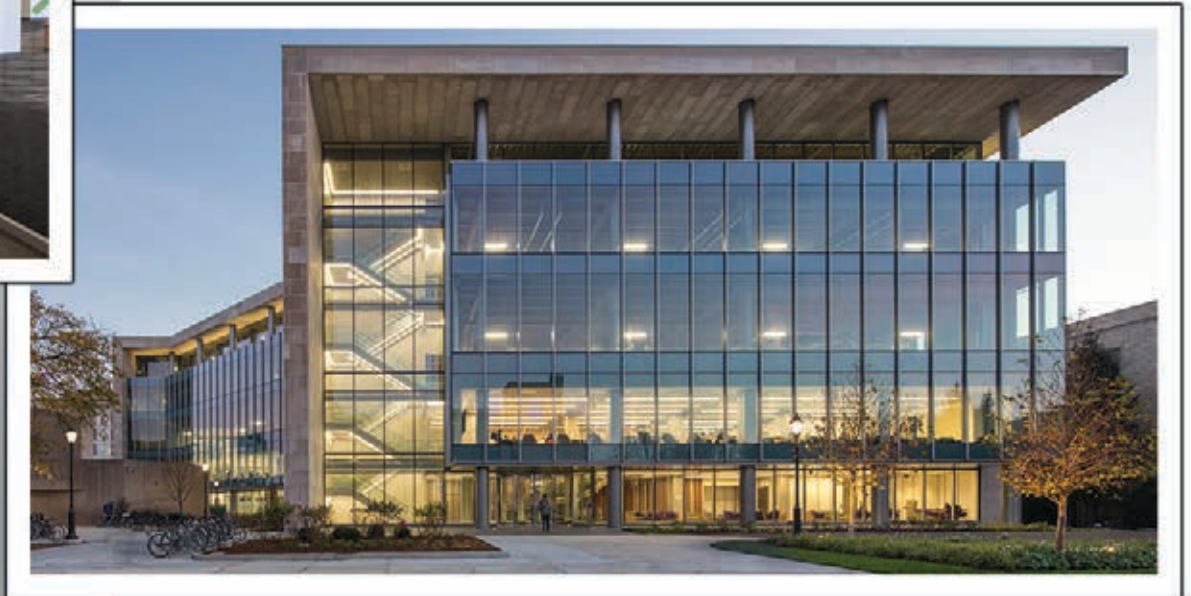
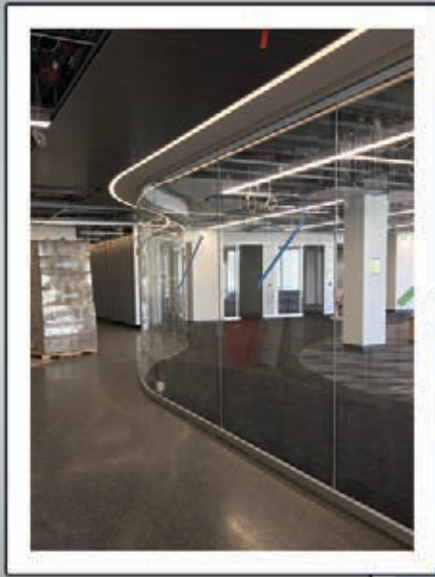
I hope that one day I can give back to the community using the experiences I have gained during my college career.

Thank You Block Electric.

Sincerely,
- ADAM HUGHES

FEATURED PROJECT

Northwestern University Mudd Hall Expansion



The 14 month Northwestern University Mudd Hall Expansion Project, which was completed in September 2017, was 100% BIM coordinated and took full advantage of our new fabrication shop run by Luke Simpson.

The project was a gut renovation and new addition to an existing building, which now houses a library on the second floor and research labs on the first floor, along with shell space on the upper three floors. Block is currently involved in the build out of the third floor shell space and the remaining laser labs on the first floor.

The project involved “a little bit of everything”, from medium voltage gear to large low voltage switchgear, to a Lutron lighting and shade control system to setting a 61,000 pound generator on the roof, according to Project Manager John Leyden. A solenoid pit was installed in one of the labs in which only non-ferrous material could be used, and the individual laser labs had to be completely sealed and were required to pass a blow test. Some of the laser labs are occupied by extremely sensitive research equipment so special precautions were required to prevent EMF interference.

Key players involved with the project included Bill Kuta, Dan Greene, Martin Will, Greg Blaszyński, Nick Lenzion, Nick Dickson, Stan Sroka, Rich Wydra, Jessica Anderson, Francisco Luna, Kenneth Morrow, Richard Biel, Tim Olsen, Felix Dacpano, Josh Benninger, Gregory Martin, Larry Parker, Theodore McSwine, Peter Cardenaz and numerous others who contributed to the success of this project.

“Getting off to a good start is very important on a project this size, especially with the amount of detail that this project required,” Leyden said. “As usual, Jesse Geiger and Brandon Gaddis didn’t disappoint on the coordination end of the project with their exceptional skill set and expertise. Luke Simpson’s field experience and ability to think outside the box as it relates to the pre-fabrication is also a huge advantage.”

Block Electric received numerous compliments from Northwestern University and Walsh Construction on the knowledge and professionalism of Bill Kuta and his crew and the quality of the work that was installed.

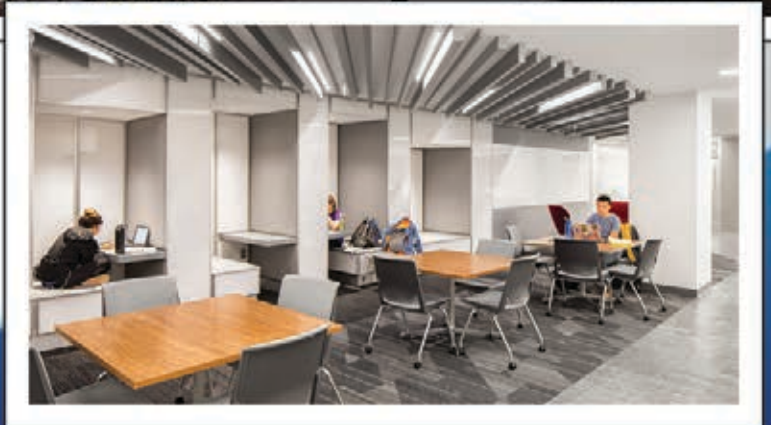
The Walsh Superintendent and the other subcontractors said that “Bill was most likely the best electrical contractor foreman” they have ever worked with in all their years in the trade.

Other comments included:

“His willingness to get involved in unappealing situations and uncanny ability to come up with a practical solution separates Bill from the rest.”

“When approached with a tricky problem, Bill always had the best interest of the end user in mind and took into account the potential cost impact while keeping the project on schedule.”

Block Electric also received numerous compliments from the CAD team on Jesse Geiger and his extensive knowledge in BIM coordination and ability to find practical solutions in a timely manner. “I don’t think it’s said enough, but we are extremely fortunate to have someone of Jesse’s caliber on our team who is the catalyst for the success of numerous projects and has played a vital role in moving Block Electric forward.”



Block Announcements

Block Employees Celebrate Milestone Anniversaries

Congratulations to the following Block employees who recently celebrated milestone anniversaries:

Fred Biosca celebrated 30 years with Block Electric on May 31, 2018.



Michael Haines celebrated 25 years with Block Electric on June 7, 2018.

Chris McCormick celebrated 25 years with Block Electric on March 31, 2018.



Matthew Monger celebrated 20 years with Block Electric on March 22, 2018.

Thank you for being part of our company's success over the years. We greatly appreciate and value your hard work and success. Happy Anniversary!

FOCUS ON SAFETY:

Seven Common Causes of Incidents

by Assurance Agency

Consider this statistic: 80 out of every 100 incidents are the fault of the person involved in the incident. Unsafe Acts cause four times as many incidents and injuries as unsafe conditions.

Incidents occur for many reasons. In most industries people tend to look for "things" to blame when an incident happens, because it's easier than looking for "root causes", such as those listed below. Consider the underlying incident causes described. Have you been guilty of any of these attitudes or behaviors? If so, you may have not been injured, but next time you may not be so lucky.

Taking Shortcuts: Every day we make decisions we hope will make the job faster and more efficient. But do time savers ever risk your own safety, or that of other crew members? Shortcuts that reduce your safety on the job are not shortcuts, but an increased chance for injury.

Being Over Confident: Confidence is a good thing. Overconfidence is too much of a good thing. "It'll never happen to me" is an attitude that can lead to improper procedures, tools, or methods in your work. Any of these can lead to an injury.

Starting a Task with Incomplete Instructions: To do the job safely and right the first time you need complete information. Have you ever seen a worker sent to do a job, having been given only a part of the job's instructions? Don't be shy about asking for explanations about work procedures and safety

precautions. It isn't dumb to ask questions; it's dumb not to.

Poor Housekeeping: When clients, managers or safety professionals walk through your work site, housekeeping is an accurate indicator of everyone's attitude about quality, production and safety. Poor housekeeping creates hazards of all types. A well maintained area sets a standard for others to follow. Good housekeeping involves both pride and safety.

Ignoring Safety Procedures: Purposely failing to observe safety procedures can endanger you and your co-workers. You are being paid to follow the company safety policies—not to make your own rules. Being "casual" about safety can lead to a casualty!

Mental Distractions from Work: Having a bad day at home and worrying about it at work is a hazardous combination. Dropping your "mental" guard can pull your focus away from age work procedures. You can also be distracted when you're busy working and a friend comes by to talk while you are trying to work. Don't become a statistic because you took your eyes off the machine "just for a minute."

Failure to Pre-Plan the Work: There is a lot of talk today about Job Hazard Analysis > JHA's are an effective way to figure out the smartest ways to work safely and effectively. Being hasty in starting a task, or not thinking through the process can put you in harm's way. Instead, Plan Your Work and then Work Your Plan."

Block Electric's Safety Policy

It is our policy to provide all employees with a safe, healthful, and hazard-free work place. The intent at all times is to comply with the provisions of the Williams-Steiger Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (OSHA).

Block Electric recognizes that accident prevention and efficient production are interrelated. We further recognize our responsibility to provide adequate training, safeguards and safety equipment for each employee. In turn each employee bears the responsibility to comply with all safety regulations and the use of required safety equipment. The safety and well being of our employees has been and will continue to be of primary importance.

Our EMR is .78 and our Contractor Score is 2500. Phil Casto is our safety director.

Block raises over \$8,300 for Walk & Roll Chicago

Block Electric raised over \$8,300 for the American Cancer Society’s Walk & Roll Chicago during the April 21 event at Soldier Field this year.

“Thank you for your participation and incredible fundraising efforts with Walk & Roll this year,” a letter from the American Cancer Society’s Walk & Roll division read. “Without all of your support, this would not be possible.”

To date, CEI-Chicago Electrical Industry has raised more than \$412,000 with donations still coming in every day.

The American Cancer Society has been saving lives for more than 100 years. Today, they are

helping save more than 400 lives a day that would have otherwise been lost to cancer.

The funds raised from Walk & Roll are helping to support life-saving research and local patient services for the American Cancer Society and the community members they serve.



WINNERS ANNOUNCED! NEW IDEAS NEEDED...WIN A VISA GIFT CARD! New Products, Tools and Prefab Assemblies

WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

The following employees won the \$50.00 Visa Gift Card for their innovative ideas:

First quarter winner goes to Nick Dickson with his Bin Rack Storage System. Second quarter winner goes to Dan Greene with his Pre-Fab Supply Carrier. Congratulations to you both for sharing your innovative ideas that can make our jobs run more efficient.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

We are looking for fresh and innovative ideas for new products, tools and ongoing prefab assemblies to feature in future issues of the Block Electric newsletter.

In an effort to make our jobs run more efficiently and be more cost-effective, we are looking for your suggestions regarding which tools can be used in your day-to-day work to make your lives easier. There are no right or

wrong answers. We’re looking for any and all products and ideas to share with the team.

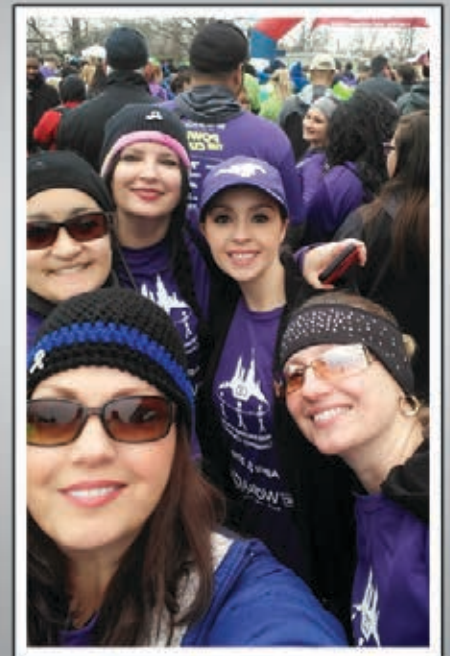
WHAT’S IN IT FOR YOU?

If your idea is featured in the Block Electric newsletter, you will receive up to a \$50.00 Visa gift card.

Pre-fab Supply Carrier



Bin Rack Storage System



Block Electric Company
7107 Milwaukee Avenue
Niles, Illinois 60714



Block Electric Company is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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to see our website!



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Niles:
7107 Milwaukee Avenue • Niles, IL 60714
Phone: 847.647.4030 • Fax: 847.647.6980

Block Electric Company
Service ■ Safety ■ Quality
www.blockelectric.com

Shorewood:
203-C Earl Road • Shorewood, IL 60404
Phone: 815.744.2000 • Fax: 815.744.6070