

The Pueblo Chieftain

CSU-PUEBLO

Back to the drawing board

Construction management professor's internship to benefit students

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An assistant professor at Colorado State University-Pueblo has picked up a new internship.

GH Phipps Construction Companies has brought on board Daniel Trujillo as one of four educators selected by a national program to place those who teach construction management into the heart of a construction company for six weeks.

Trujillo is part of a growing construction management program at CSU-Pueblo that teaches across the construction management and civil engineering technology programs at the university. The two programs include about 140 students.

"There is a lot to teach. I think I can bring principles of Lean construction into the classroom," Trujillo said in a press release.

"It's unbelievable how compartmentalized our industry still is. The processes GH Phipps are implementing will counter that."

School officials said that when Trujillo joined the university's department four years ago, he began to introduce LEED to the curriculum, as well as Building Information Modeling. He established a LEED Lab at CSU-Pueblo, one of four in the country, so that "students can work on certifying a project and have a deeper level of understanding of the process."

"What I'm learning here will change the way I teach," Trujillo said.

"I want to take it to a higher level. The whole goal is, 'How can I better prepare students?' " After attending a recent pull planning session at the Metropolitan State University of Denver Aerospace Engineering Sciences building, Trujillo said he wants to introduce that strategic approach and the Lean construction/ last planner system to his students.

This internship program is sponsored in part by the AGC Education and Research Foundation.



Trujillo applied last winter, naming GH Phipps as the company he wanted to intern with, after years of working with Gregg Behmer, GH Phipps' Virtual Design and Construction manager. Behmer serves as a mentor and on the advisory board of the program.

The AGC, GH Phipps and CSU-Pueblo split the cost of the program three ways. Each entity had to sign off on the program Trujillo and Behmer developed for the internship.

Trujillo grew up in Pueblo, and his family has farmed and ranched in the San Luis Valley since 1917. His father taught accounting at the University of Southern Colorado (now CSU-Pueblo).

As an assistant professor of construction management, Trujillo is on a tenure track. He earned a bachelor's degree in business and administration from the University of Colorado in Boulder, and a master's degree in real estate finance and construction management from the University of Denver. He has traveled widely in Central and South America, and has a certificate from the Escuela Oficial de Idiomas, in Madrid, where he worked for the Wall Street Institute for three years.

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