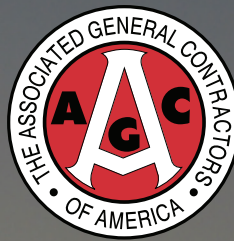


2021

MCA

EXCELLENCE  
AWARDS



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## 2021 MCA EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Message from the Executive Director:

Workforce shortages. Supply chain and distribution problems. Record inflation. A lingering pandemic. As if work in the construction industry isn't challenging enough, all of the above issues made 2021 a unique and interesting year.

Yet, as MCA staff and awards judges reviewed all the submissions we received, one thing stood out - our members persevered and rose to the challenge. There is a reason these awards are called Construction Excellence Awards: the projects that earn this title are truly exceptional in every aspect. From planning and engineering to long days on the worksite in all kinds of conditions, the MCA is proud to recognize these quality projects that positively impact our communities.

I would like to extend a heartfelt congratulations to our 2021 Construction Excellence Awards winners, and thank all of our applicants for presenting us with their quality work. And thank you to all MCA members for your dedication to our industry, and our association. On behalf of the Board and staff, I wish you all the best in 2022!

*David Smith*

DAVID SMITH, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Judges:

DAVE FRENTRESS, CalPortland  
DON CLEM, NRMCA Northwest Region  
JERRY BOWSER, retired  
ALASKA CHAPTER of the AGC

MCA Staff:

DAVID SMITH                      KEITH OUZTS  
NICOLE HANNI                    BARRY HOUSER



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## 2021 Highway Excellence Award - "Best Reconstruction of A Rural Project"

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: SCHELLINGER CONSTRUCTION

#### North of Kiowa - North, Browning

This project took an existing 6.4 mile stretch of highway and flattened the curves so drastically that it reduced the overall length by one half of a mile, while maintaining the aesthetically pleasing, winding mountain roadway. This highway which was located entirely within the Blackfoot Indian Reservation contained multiple artifacts that had to be preserved or relocated. These included prayer flags, rock cairns and the burial site of a Blackfoot chief that sat between the old highway and the new construction activity that was being performed less than one hundred feet from his grave. More than 28 different springs and weeps surfaced and threatened the integrity of several 20-80 foot tall cut slopes during the grading operations.



## 2021 Highway Excellence Award - "Best Reconstruction of Urban/City Project"

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: LHC

#### Foys Lake Interchange, Kalispell

The completion of this project has resulted in an immediate relief on the Foy's Lake Interchange and Kalispell Bypass as a whole. In addition, two additional lanes were added to the southbound traffic for approximately 1.8 miles. The finished elevation of the new roundabouts were below the existing grade of the old roundabouts, creating drainage issues during construction. Vacuum trucks and submersible pumps were used to relieve the water. Increased traffic loads in Kalispell created a major hurdle to climb in completing this project on time. Wick drains were employed to increase the settlement time of the unstable soils 30 below the surface. These wick drains were difficult to install given the glacial till that needed to be drilled through to reach the liquefied soil below.



## 2021 Highway Excellence Award - "Best Paving Smoothness/Volumetric & Density"

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: RIVERSIDE CONTRACTING

#### East of Busby - East, Hardin

This section of US 212 runs through the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and has high semi-truck traffic usage. The existing roadway was rutting due to the high volumes of semi-truck traffic. The existing Present Traveled Way (PTW) was first milled, pulverized and rough graded to the approximate finished elevation. This was followed by in-situ CTB which was compacted and finished to the required elevation. Following CTB was the placement of Grade S plant mix. Riverside elected to use the available cold millings (RAP- Recycled Asphalt Pavement) to produce a 35% and a 25% binder replacement Grade S plant mix. Other items included new pavement markings, signing, delineation, centerline and shoulder rumble strips, guardrail, and bridge rehabilitation.



## 2021 Concrete Excellence Award - "Paving"

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR & CONCRETE PRODUCER: UNITED MATERIALS of GREAT FALLS

#### MANG Airport Apron, Great Falls

The new C-130 aircraft apron at the MT Air National Guard was close to 258,000 square feet and used approximately 8,600 cubic yards of concrete. The entire project included storm drain and water main improvements, in addition to excavation and gravel work, concrete paving and asphalt paving, lighting and electrical improvements. The apron provides parking and tie downs for four additional C-130s used by the MT Air National Guard. The concrete mix design featured 25% fly ash replacement, two different sizes of course aggregate, and a water-to-cement ratio of 0.38. Flexural strengths for the mix exceeded the required 650 psi throughout the project. Air content ranged from 4.5-7.5% to ensure that the concrete could withstand the freezing and thawing cycles.



## 2021 Concrete Excellence Award - "ICF Structures"

### Concrete Producer: CASINO CREEK CONCRETE

#### Fergus County Residence, Lewistown

The scope of work was simply to build a concrete house. Built in fall of 2020 and summer of 2021 when lumber prices tripled. Meanwhile, concrete prices were up only 4%. The jump in lumber prices, spurred ICF sales to a 300% increase over the previous year. In times of lumber uncertainty, ICF building makes sense. Unique features of the home include the deck. Quotes on decking material (TREX) came in at \$17,337. The Trex was replaced with 6 cy of concrete poured on a 3" pan deck with I beam supports, basically your typical high rise construction. High range water reducers were utilized throughout the project. Total for slabs, walls and exterior concrete was 325 cy.





## 2021 Concrete Excellence Award - "Agricultural Concrete"

### CONCRETE PRODUCER: KNIFE RIVER

#### Gavilon Grain Facility, Billings

The goal of this project was to replace an aging grain facility in downtown Billings with a state-of-the-art facility in Huntley, giving producers and trucks a more accessible and efficient facility. That goal was met using 6,200 cy of concrete that included slip-formed silos able to store 750,000 bushels. There are 2 receiving pits that can handle the in-coming grain at a rate of 38,000 bushels/hour. The on-site railroad spur can hold a 120-car train which can be loaded in 6 hours without effecting train traffic on the main tracks. The use of concrete allowed for larger silos, giving more storage capacity, and a smaller footprint than a steel bin alternative. This concrete will provide reduced maintenance cost over the life of the facility and provide the durability to withstand the variations in the Montana climate.



## 2021 Concrete Excellence Award - "Water/Sewer/Utilities"

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: NW CONSTRUCTION

### CONCRETE PRODUCER: UNITED MATERIALS of GREAT FALLS

#### Four Horns Dam Modifications, Browning

The project consisted of constructing a new 6-mile-long access road to the project site including excavation, embankment, and gravel surfacing. Excavation of existing earthen dam embankment, demolition of existing outlet works conduit and slide gates. Cofferdam construction to protect multiple work sites & diversion of 200 cubic feet per second of reservoir inflow around project. Installation of new concrete encased 60-inch and 84-inch inlet and outlet steel conduits, new cast-in-place concrete inlet structure, outlet structure and 55-foot-tall gate tower. Outstanding features include temporary bypass of the irrigation canal, new outlet works system including new gate structure, new earthen dam construction with zoned embankment, and new spillway structures located downstream.



## 2021 Concrete Excellence Award - "Industrial Commercial > \$5 Million", "Technical Merit", & "Judge's Award"

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: SLETTEN CONSTRUCTION

### CONCRETE PRODUCER: KNIFE RIVER

#### Summit Beverage, Missoula

The general scope of work for this project was ground-up construction of a new distribution warehouse and operations office. Construction began with earthwork and underground utilities, continued into concrete placement and erection, framed out with structural steel, and finished out with high quality finishes in both warehouse and office building. Exterior improvements included pavement, landscaping, decorative fencing, and a monumental illuminated sign at the entry wing wall. The most outstanding feature of this project is the size of the tilt-up job in conjunction with the craftsmanship and detail of the interior and exterior office finishes. It is one of the largest tilt-up jobs constructed in Montana while also having the detail and quality of a smaller commercial or private job.



## 2021 Building Excellence Award - "Best Historic Restoration"

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: SWANK ENTERPRISES

#### MSU Romney Hall, Bozeman

Romney Hall, an Italian Renaissance Revival style building on the National Register of Historic Places, is located on Montana State University's Bozeman campus. Architectural designers of Cushing Terrell along with Swank Enterprises worked to retain the character-defining features of the historic 1922 structure, while extending its useful life. They achieved this by re-purposing the former gymnasium for classroom spaces, collaborative learning areas, new homes for both the Math and Writing Centers, and adding an improved campus location for Veteran's Services. Two significant attributes of the renovation are that it will make the building accessible for all with the new grade level entry and elevator, and the project is targeted to achieve LEED Gold Certification, one of the highest measurements for sustainable design.



## 2021 Building Excellence Award - "Best Custom Residence"

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: DICK ANDERSON CONSTRUCTION

#### Rock Creek Ridge Residence, Deer Lodge

The Ridge residence is a brand-new 8,100 square-foot custom home located on a 25-acre lot at Rock Creek Cattle Company near Deer Lodge, MT. This design consists of massive timber trusses in the interior great room that are also featured in the roof framing of the 1,400 square feet of covered outdoor patios. Extensive use of masonry stone, built in cabinetry, fully automated lighting system and custom features throughout gives this home an impressive handcrafted feel. Views of the impressive Flint Creek Range mountains were maximized with the final layout of the project on the lot. A large custom water feature built into the landscaping puts an exclamation point on this impressive home.





## 2021 Building Excellence Award – “Best Commercial Project”

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: MARTEL CONSTRUCTION

#### A&E Design Office, Bozeman

At a crossroads of urban development in Bozeman, Martel Construction and A&E Design created an innovative, contemporary office space. After outgrowing its original location, A&E Design is the first tenant in the new Aspen Crossing at Midtown building, a mixed-use development in an up-and-coming neighborhood. The team worked together to envision and realize an office space that integrates within the building's industrial architecture context. With its innovative design, unique construction and material applications, and subtle creativity at every corner, the resulting space exemplifies the 21st-century work environment and positions the firm for future growth.



## 2021 Building Excellence Award – “Best Excellence in Craftsmanship”

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: SWANK ENTERPRISES

#### MSU American Indian Hall, Bozeman

The American Indian Hall at Montana State University is a statement of Native American culture serving as a bridge between American Indians and other cultures. The 31,000 square foot structure is home to both the American Indian/Alaska Native Student Success Services and MSU's Department of Native American Studies. Conceived as a “Home Away from Home” for over 800 Native Students on the MSU campus, the facility provides dedicated spaces for study, collaboration, and ceremony. A Student Commons provides rooms for Native Students complete with a full-service kitchen, childcare space, dedicated work, and study areas.



## 2021 Building Excellence Award – “Best Institutional Project”

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: DICK ANDERSON CONSTRUCTION

#### Columbus Elementary School Phases 1 & 2, Columbus

Where the city's original schoolhouse once stood, the newly expanded and renovated Columbus Elementary school prevails proudly in its place. After an extensive master planning effort and successful bond passage, the team realized the community's vision. The design addressed building system inefficiencies, significant overcrowding, and inadequate security and circulation while inspiring community pride and engagement. Larger classrooms, a new central core, modern amenities, and graphic illustrations combine to create an expanded and vibrant learning environment. A relic from the historic schoolhouse was unearthed, and was displayed in the school for all to see.



## 2021 Building Excellence Award – “Best Industrial Project”

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: COP CONSTRUCTION

#### Davis Lane Lift Station, Bozeman

The Davis Lane Lift Station and Norton East Ranch Outfall Sewer Project consisted of the construction of a 20' x 45' lift station with metering building. The lift station required an excavation depth of 35 feet. COP installed 11,000 feet of 27-inch and 30-inch gravity sewer main to the lift station with a 700 foot 64-inch micro tunnel underneath I-90, Montana Rail Link tracks and two frontage roads. The \$15.6 million project was completed for the City of Bozeman. The Davis Lift Station and Norton East Ranch Outfall was a unique project which required many different trades of the construction industry to collaborate and build a large project to meet the City of Bozeman's sewer needs for expansion.



## 2021 Partnering Excellence, MCA/MDT

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: KNIFE RIVER

#### MT 200 – Fairview; MDT District 4

The entirety of the team lead with a sense of service to the public. A forum was created to communicate effectively and everyone was held accountable by following an effective pattern of task completion through this process. Each member was able to ask questions, offer solutions, and express concerns without fear, knowing each member's commitment to the project was sure and steadfast. Each member held the statute of success every day, helping each other regardless of which entity they represented. The team accomplishment of the job being substantially complete 2 months ahead of schedule and executing in a fashion to deliver a quality project under budget was a great reward.



## 2021 Partnering Excellence, MCA/MDT

### GENERAL CONTRACTOR: KNIFE RIVER

#### Main Street – Billings; MDT District 5

The Main Street - Billings project was not required to incorporate Partnering. Knife River and MDT took the initiative to include Partnering on this project to improve a difficult project. The partnering session prior to the start was very positive. Past experiences were discussed as well as key points to the successful completion of the project. Through partnering, the project performed as slightly better as expected. Not having to deal with delays due to slow decisions was a cost savings. The coordination between both parties made operations more efficient, resulting in substantially time and cost savings.





# **2022**

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