

# NCCCO FOUNDATION

## 10th ANNUAL INDUSTRY FORUM

Thursday, April 17, 2025

2:00pm – 5:00pm ET

In-Person in Charlotte, NC or via Zoom

### AGENDA AND PROGRAM

TIME	SESSION	TITLE	PRESENTER
2:00	---	Welcome and Introductions	<b>T.J. Cantwell</b> , Executive Director, NCCCO Foundation
2:05	Session 1	Highlighting Safety Hazards in the Crane Industry	<b>Andy Sterlen</b> , Health and Safety Education Specialist DOL OSH Division Education Training & Technical Assistance
2:40	Session 2	From Driver's Ed to Desktop: Teaching Computer Skills Through the Lens of Emotional Safety and Cognitive Load	<b>Dr. Krista Wojdak</b> , Professor of Instructional Design and Technology, Appalachian State University
3:15	Session 3	Tips and Practical Approaches for Helping Crane Operators with Technology (Panel)	<b>Ray Feidt</b> , Corporate Inspection/Training Manager, Stephenson Equipment; <b>Brian Schmoyer</b> , President/Trainer, U.S. Training Consultants
3:40	BREAK	BREAK	
3:55	Session 4	Advice on Finding Employment in the Crane Industry and Improving Recruitment and Retention (Panel)	<b>Mike Embry</b> , Joint Apprenticeship Training Program Administrator, IUOE Local 181; <b>Russ Gallivan</b> , Director of Operations, Colorado Crane Operator School; <b>Chris Smith</b> , Vice President of Service, Morrow Equipment
4:25	Session 5	Truth or Consequences: Improving Safety Through Verification and Reporting Processes	<b>Pete Laux, Sr.</b> , Equipment Manager, Kiewit (retired); <b>John Zarian</b> , Legal Counsel, NCCCO
5:00		Closing Remarks and Adjourn	<b>T.J. Cantwell</b> , Executive Director, NCCCO Foundation

Session times subject to change.

## 2025 NCCCO Foundation Industry Forum

### SESSION DESCRIPTIONS AND SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



#### **Highlighting Safety Hazards in the Crane Industry**

Speaker: Andy Sterlen, OCSS, GI, CI, ENV, IH-MESH Health and Safety Education Specialist North Carolina Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Division Education Training & Technical Assistance

Session Description: Gain new ideas for how even great crane operations could improve their practices to be even safer. Hear the point of view of crane regulation enforcement to learn about the violations they see too many of, where inspections may be focused, and how to make sure you're in compliance.

Biography: Andy has over 25 years of experience in industrial hygiene in the chemical industry. In his role as a health education specialist for NC OSH, he instructs many widely varied topics from chemical hygiene and PSM to crane inspections and steel erection. He began his career as an R&D and process chemist in the field of polymer chemistry. After Graduate school at NCSU in Pulp and Paper and Chemical Engineering, he returned to industry as a plant manager and lead engineer where he managed both Process Safety Management and chemical hygiene plans.

He has authored several published papers, holds 7 US patents in polymer chemistry and has MESH certifications in General Industry, Construction, Industrial Hygiene and Environmental as well as being a certified OSHA Construction Safety Specialist. For fun Andy enjoys playing Australian Rules football, cycling, painting, tree climbing and arboriculture.



#### **From Driver's Ed to Desktop: Teaching Computer Skills Through the Lens of Emotional Safety and Cognitive Load**

Speaker: Dr. Krista Wojdak, Professor of Instructional Design and Technology, at Appalachian State University

Session Description: With her deep knowledge of the learning sciences and the learning design field, she will provide insights on how to best teach basic computer and technology skills to adult learners (e.g. operators) and demonstrate why it can be so difficult to do it.

Biography: Dr. Krista Wojdak has an extensive background with instructional and curriculum design and development and is a professionally certified facilitator. She has a deep knowledge of the learning sciences and the learning design field, on which she grounds the learning experiences she designs, develops, and facilitates. She is passionate about developing learning experiences that foster growth and activate human potential and enjoys working with growth-oriented teams and organizations. She has more than 25 years of experience working as a leader and innovator across education, corporate and non-profit organizations on a range of topics related to teaching, learning, and innovation.



## **Tips and Practical Approaches for Helping Crane Operators with Technology**

Panelists: Ray Feidt, Corporate Inspection/Training Manager, Stephenson Equipment, Inc. and Brian Schmoyer, President/Trainer, U.S. Training Consultants

Session Description: Mr. Feidt and Schmoyer will discuss how they are approaching the difficult task of helping crane operators and others in the industry learn and get comfortable with technology both inside and outside the cab.

Biographies: Mr. Ray Feidt is the Corporate Inspection/Training Manager for Stephenson Equipment, Inc. SEI specializes in serving the crane and heavy lifting industries, construction, asphalt & paving, road repair & maintenance, and public works equipment markets in Pennsylvania, New York, Maryland and surrounding regions. Ray, formally a crane operator and crane technician for 28 years, is the manager of SEI's Crane Operator Training Department and Crane Inspection Departments, is a CCO certified: operator, signalperson, rigger, crane inspector and lift director; and is a CCO Accredited Practical Proctor. He is the Past Chairman of the Pennsylvania State Board of Crane Operators, serves as Chairman of the CCO Crane Inspector Program Management Committee, member of the CCO Lift Director Program Management Committee, alternate member of the CCO Rigger Program Management Committee, and alternate CCO Commissioner, has been published in several crane and lifting magazines, and presented on the topic of crane inspections at the 2014, 2017, 2020 and 2023 Con-Expo Triennial



Equipment show held at the Las Vegas Convention Center.

Mr. Schmoyer started working for Leeward Construction, a heavy civil construction company in 2003 who provided construction services in small- and large-scale land development, pipe infrastructure, road construction, bridge construction, paving, and concrete work. Brian was initially hired as a laborer / operator, however with his background experience he quickly moved up through the ranks as an operator. In 2004 Leeward sent Brian for CCO training to obtain his first CCO crane operators license in fixed cab, swing cab and lattice boom designations.

In 2015 Brian and his wife Jennifer Schmoyer, decided to pool their strengths and start U.S. Training Consultants, LLC (USTC). With Brian's construction and Jennifer's professional engineer/project management backgrounds, they created a unique and dynamic company. USTC provides training and consulting services to support the construction and industrial industries around the country.

Brian recently started Astute Subject Matter Experts, LLC. providing consulting services as requested. He serves on several CCO and ASME B30 committees, as a member or alternate, and enjoys volunteering his time for these committees.



## **Advice on Finding Employment in the Crane Industry and Improving Recruitment and Retention Developments in Certification**

Panelists: Mike Embry, Joint Apprenticeship Training Program Administrator, IUOE Local 181; Russ Gallivan, Director of Operations, Colorado Crane Operator School; Chris Smith, Vice President of Service, Morrow Equipment Co.

Session Description: This expert panel will provide their perspectives about the different ways to start a career in the crane industry such as where to start and what abilities and qualities are needed to be successful. They will also provide their thoughts on the best ways to make sure companies and organizations can identify and keep the best talent in the crane industry.

Biographies: Mike Embry 57 years of age, Married, two daughters two grandchildren. I have been in the Operating engineers for 32+ years. I have been running cranes for over thirty-five years. I have worked full time at local 181 apprenticeship and training since 2011. I acquired my CCO certs back when we had to prove 2000 hours and didn't take practical's tests. I passionate about my job because its teaching skills that is life changing for our members.



Russ Gallivan is the Director of Operations at Colorado Crane Operator School in Frederick, CO. With more than 24 years of experience in the crane and rigging industry, Russ began his career "under the hook" and quickly advanced into leadership as a superintendent—bringing a deep well of practical, boots-on-the-ground expertise to every role he's held.

His well-rounded perspective comes from decades spent both in the field and on the road, delivering crane and rigging safety training and facilitating NCCCO certification programs nationwide. Russ is a passionate advocate for raising the bar in safety education and workforce development across the crane industry.

As a dynamic leader and mentor, Russ is driven by a mission to help individuals grow, build high-performing businesses, and create work cultures where safety, accountability, and excellence thrive side by side.



Mr. Smith is the Vice President of Service at Morrow Equipment Co. L.L.C., bringing over 40 years of experience in the crane industry. He oversees service operations and the company's training center. Since joining Morrow Equipment in 2008, Mr. Smith has held various roles, including managing the training center before

assuming his current position.

Mr. Smith holds leadership roles in several industry organizations. He serves as the Chair of the ASME B30.29 Self-Erect Tower Crane Subcommittee and is a member of the ASME B30 Main Committee. Additionally, he chairs the NCCCO Tower Crane Management Committee and serves as an alternate on the NCCCO Board of Commissioners. He is actively involved in the Ethics and Discipline Committee and the Practical Exam Audit Committee (PEAC).

In the realm of construction personnel hoists, Mr. Smith contributes as a member of the ANSI A10.4 Personnel Hoist for Construction Committee. He also holds the role of Vice President at the Construction Elevator Contractor Association (CECA).



**Truth or Consequences: Improving Safety Through Verification and Reporting Processes**

Speakers: Pete Laux, Sr. Equipment Manager, Kiewit (retired) and John Zarian, Legal Counsel, NCCCO

Session Description: Pete Laux and John Zarian will discuss ways to improve your crane safety program and ensure your operators are properly certified. Specifically the processes of verification and reporting that should be utilized by everyone working with cranes and operators.



Biographies: Pete Laux was continually employed by the Kiewit Companies since graduating from the Oregon Institute of Technology in 1980. Over that time he held many positions including mechanic, maintenance engineer, mechanic foreman, master mechanic, assistant district equipment superintendent, and district equipment manager. Pete has been involved in most all phases of equipment management from troubleshooting, diagnosis and repair to equipment cost control, purchasing, equipment mobilization, securing warranty, maintenance staffing and organization, equipment training, crane lifting/operation training, overseeing maintenance and equipment operations on construction jobs. Also, coordinating equipment dealer/company relations for proper parts, service and product support. Pete recently retired after 45 years of service at Kiewit.

John Zarian serves as CCO's General Counsel and Senior Director. Prior to joining CCO in 2016, and for 27 years, his private legal practice emphasized intellectual property and complex business litigation matters. John is an experienced trial lawyer, adjunct law professor, and mediator. He has been recognized as one of the "Top 100" lawyers in the Mountain States region. John received his law degree from the University of Southern California, holds a master's degree in finance from the University of Utah, and recently earned a certificate in dispute resolution from Pepperdine University.



**Emcee and Moderator:** T.J. Cantwell, Executive Director, NCCCO Foundation

Biography: T.J. Cantwell is Executive Director of the NCCCO Foundation. In this role he advances the mission of the organization and serves the crane industry by implementing programs in the areas of workforce development, education, and research. T.J.'s experience in not-for-profit management spans more than 25 years working with national associations and charities. He has launched and grown national initiatives, developed partnerships with the government and Fortune 500 companies, and led the expansion of organizations across the U.S. T.J. holds a Bachelor of Arts in History and Government from the University of Virginia and a Master of Public Policy from American University.