

Kevin McKay Spotlight

Written by Briana Rosiles



ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT LESSONS CONVEYED WAS THE IDEA OF CONTINUOUS LEARNING, AND THAT YOUR EDUCATION IN THIS INDUSTRY NEVER STOPS EVOLVING.

Kevin McKay

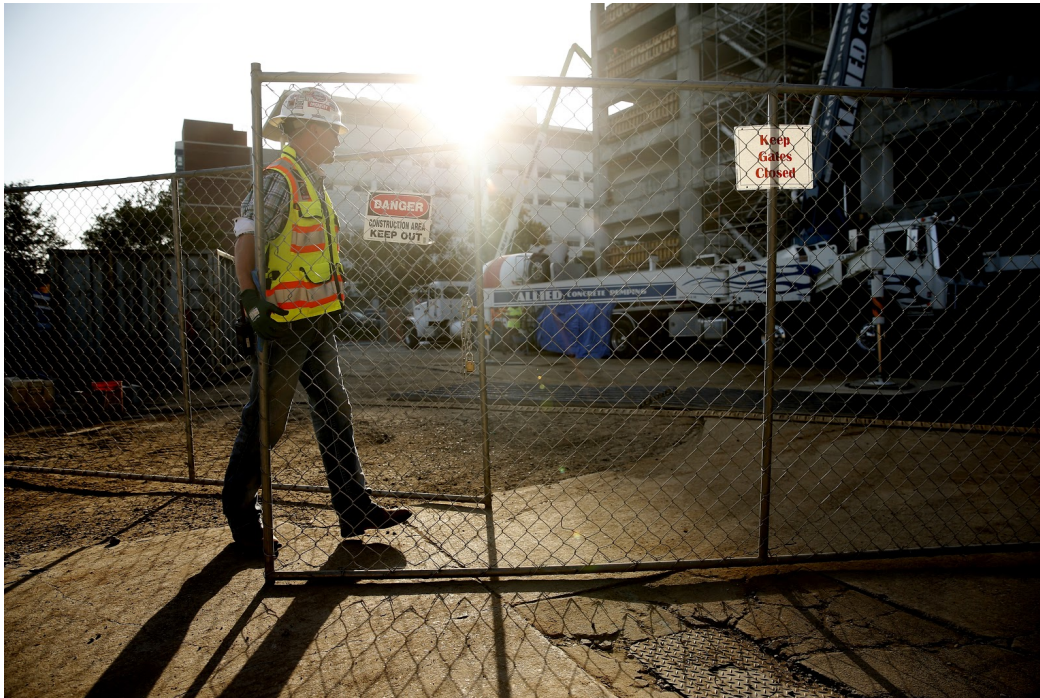
Kevin McKay graduated in 2007 as a Construction Management major here at California State University, Fresno.

Briana: What you have enjoyed most about the Construction Management program?

Kevin: The people, both staff and students. Graduating almost 12 years ago, I've enjoyed seeing the growth and quality of the program continue to excel over the years.

Briana: What experiences, knowledge, or skills have you learned/ been able to apply in professional work setting coming from this department?

Kevin: When I was a student, the program did an excellent job teaching the basic skills necessary to be able to step into a field engineer or project engineering role. However, one of the most important lessons conveyed was the idea of continuous learning, and that your education in this industry never stops evolving.



Briana: What advice you would give to your freshman self, incoming students or current Construction Management students about to graduate soon?

Kevin: The biggest piece of advice I would give to myself, or incoming freshmen students is to slow down, and take your time. Many students are in too big of a hurry to knock out the program requirements and hurry through college without capitalizing on all the available opportunities college has to offer. Especially in today's program, there are numerous clubs, initiatives and out of class opportunities to become involved in. Don't sacrifice in participating in those programs because 19 or 20 units appear to be more important.

Briana: Who was your favorite professor?

Kevin: Man, it's hard to choose a favorite but my top two would have had to be Dennis Spring or Dr. Gysler. Both of those guys had a great teaching style of blending the textbook information, real world application while mixing in a little bit of humor and fun.

Briana: Have you pursued a Master's degree, or plan to?

Kevin: I have looked into potentially pursuing a Master's Degree to potentially facilitate a part-time teaching career upon retiring from the Construction Industry.

Briana: Do you have any friends or family attending the Lyles College of Engineering, or in the Construction Management Department?

Kevin: Not currently, but there's a few in the pipeline!

Briana: What was your job title when first starting your Construction

Management career?

Kevin: Intern

Briana: How far has your career grown?

Kevin: I started my career with McCarthy Building Companies full time the semester prior to graduating Fresno State, and I have worked for McCarthy 12 years now. In that time, I have worked my way through the ranks starting as a Project Engineer to my current role of Project Director.



Briana: Who inspired you to pursue this career and why?

Kevin: My Dad. He instilled an 'old school' work mentality and work ethic in me at an early age. He was a machinist in the Navy, and I saw first hand the incredible things my old man could make with his hands. We used to build things around the farm all the time growing up, and that work ethic with a hands on mentality led me to my construction career.

Briana: How have you seen Construction Management grow?

Kevin: The biggest advancement that I've seen in the last 13 years, is the development and use of technology in construction. When I was in school, we were still coordinating drawings in 2D over light tables. Now, we have advance BIM Modeling software through multiple platforms, 4D and 5D capabilities, advanced cloud-based collaboration tools, 3D Scanning capabilities and advanced augmented & virtual reality use in construction. It's amazing to step back and think how much these technologies have come in as little as the past 10-15 years.

Briana: Where do you think it will be in the next 10 years?

Kevin: In my opinion, I predict the next 10 years to grow in two main areas over the

next 10 years. The first item which we are already starting to see take off, is the increased use and advancement of prefabricated building components and systems. Secondly I expect the increased use of robotics and / or exoskeleton systems. Currently, you are starting to hear and see studies on the use of robotics especially around shop labor for structural steel, but more interestingly you are seeing exoskeleton suits utilized by field workers. Exoskeleton suits are already being prototyped and tested in the field. Wearable exoskeleton suits are designed to increase strength of field workers, aid in repetitive motion activities, and to prevent soft tissue injuries.

Briana: What is your favorite part of the job?

Kevin: My favorite part of construction is watching a vision come to life from a 2d drawing, evolving into a 3D reality, and knowing that it has a positive impact on someone's life.

Briana: Are you a father with a family, how do you manage your work-life balance?

Kevin: Proud Husband and Father! In this industry, work-life balance is one of the biggest challenges we face every day as we know our industry is not a 9-5 type of job. However, in each day I commit myself to my family throughout the day. Even if we're in a grind at work, I take time to have that morning phone call with the wife, take 10 minutes to talk to my girls when they get out of school, and not be afraid to take an early Friday to pick the kids up from school and run for ice cream. Another important factor is to never underestimate the importance of your PTO, and USE IT! No one is going to rank you higher because you never take vacation. Each individual has a different balance that works for them, all you have to do is commit to what works, and be consistent in your approach to work life balance.

