

# Mills Construction & Outdoor Adventure Center of South Dakota Receive Award



Randy Hanson, President of Mills Construction, receives award from Bryce Healy, Executive Director of AGC of SD, on January 12, 2015. A second "twin" plaque was presented to the OAC Board for their display. An accompanying cash donation from the AGC of SD will be sent to the OAC.

At the Associated General Contractor (AGC) of South Dakota convention on January 12 and 13, Mills Construction received the Build America Award for the Outdoor Adventure Center of South Dakota project. The goal of the Build America Award is to honor a deserving member and the owners of the project for their public relations efforts, to encourage other organizations to engage in positive public relations, to foster the image of the construction industry, and to award for project excellence. Mills Construction has been a proud member of the AGC since 1957 and they have worked with the Outdoor Adventure Center organization since its initial inception over 6 years ago.

Mills Construction and the Outdoor Adventure Center of South Dakota (OAC of SD) public relations efforts were motivated by the desire to give back and to improve the community. "The benefits of giving to a community project are many for both our own company and for the construction industry in general," said Randy Hanson, Mills

Construction President. "Through giving to our community we expand our network, strengthen ties to our community, and make our community a better place to live by improving the quality of life. This center truly gives people of our region something more to do that is interesting and unique for this area."

The OAC of SD is a nonprofit organization whose goal is to provide young adults, active seniors, sportsmen, and outdoor enthusiasts with the education, skills, and experience related to our Dakota heritage. The site includes an indoor Olympic length (25 meter) archery range which accommodates up to 40 shooters at a time and a 12 lane 25 yard indoor live-fire range for pistol and rifle. Between the ranges is Adventure Alley which contains classrooms, office spaces, concessions, restrooms, and a large concourse/display area. Adventure Alley focuses on programming for many youth and active adult venues that encourage education and an active lifestyle where kids and adults can learn new skills and sports to 'Get Active, Stay Active'. Many of those programs will utilize and compliment the adjoining Dakota Nature Park.

Collaboration with so many public and private entities was key to the success of the project as is evident from the list of financial supporters of the OAC. Major donors to the project include: Ag First Farmers COOP, Steve and Sheila Anderson, Architectural Roofing & Sheetmetal, Inc., Barrett's Flooring and Decorating Center, Brookings County, Brookings County Pheasants Forever, City of Brookings, Clites Electric, CoBank, CTI, Dakota Territory Gun Collectors Association, Inc., Daktronics Inc, Department of Game, Fish and Parks, Easton Foundation, Don Endres, Falcon Plastics, Inc., Fishback Financial Corporation, Larry and Jan Fjeldos, Tim Gutormson, Gylling Data Management, Inc., Sharon Hanson, Terry Jacobson, JMJ Caseworks, Larson Foundation, Larson Manufacturing Employees, Patricia and Dale Larson, Midwest Glass, Inc., Mills Construction Inc., Ope Niemeyer Flooring Installation, P&M Steel Company, Pickard Crop Service, Sands Drywall Inc., Sanford Health, SL Gimbel Foundation Fund, South Dakota Community Foundation, Tessier's Inc., The Wellmark Foundation, Vision Brookings, and Whitetails Unlimited, Inc. Thank you to all you made this project possible!

While Mills Construction and the OAC have been recognized with this award, the real winners are the people of the Brookings region and beyond.



Outdoor Adventure Center of South Dakota on the edge of Dakota Nature Park - 2810 22<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S.