South East Iowa Builders Association
Established 1916
Celebrating Over 100 Years

Since 1993, SEIBA has awarded over $754,898 towards educating our students!

FALL 2026

A Message from the SEIBA Board President



Dear Members of the Southeast Iowa Builders Association,

As I reflect on the past six months and look ahead to what's next for the Southeast Iowa Builders Association, I find myself thinking about what makes this organization truly special. When people ask me why I'm a member of SEIBA, and why I chose to serve as President, the answer is simple: it's the people.

The real strength of SEIBA doesn't just live in our events or our bylaws; it lives in the relationships built across job sites, boardrooms, and monthly gatherings. Being a member means belonging to a tight-knit community of contractors, suppliers, subcontractors, and associate members who genuinely care about the craft, support one another's businesses, and share a deep pride in building Southeast Iowa. When you're part of SEIBA, you're never navigating industry shifts, labor demands, or project challenges alone, you have a network of peers standing behind you.

That spirit of connection and shared purpose is why our recent initiatives and events have seen such extraordinary success:

- The Annual Hog Roast: Our members showed up with overwhelming generosity, raising approximately $90,000 through this year's auction. That total includes $15,600 raised specifically to send students from Burlington High School to a national welding competition!
- Build My Future: We brought together trade professionals to host over 1,000 seventh grade students for a day of hands-on learning, opening their eyes to rewarding careers in the building trades.
- The Annual Golf Outing: A fantastic day on the course that showcased the camaraderie of our membership while raising $21,000 to support our association's ongoing work and community programs.
- CTE School Grants: In an incredible effort to support trade education early, SEIBA awarded $47,000 in grants to eleven local schools for their Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, giving educators the tools and equipment needed to train future workers.
- Scholarships for Tomorrow's Builders: Our commitment to the next generation continues with four scholarships of $750 per semester awarded to local students, along with three additional students in our scholarship pipeline receiving $1,000 for each semester as they pursue their trade careers.

Membership is all about staying connected and showing up for one another. A great way to keep those relationships growing is at our Monthly Happy Hours. I encourage you to join us for our final event of the year – December 10th Christmas Happy Hour – Martini's Grille in Burlington.

Thank you for your continued support of the SEIBA mission, for your investment in our community, and most importantly, for being the incredible people who make this association feel like family. I look forward to seeing you at our next event!

Warm regards,
Brad Lange
President, Southeast Iowa Builders Association
Vice President, Keystone Home

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Welcome New Members:

A-1 Mobile Storage Service
Quality Roofing Pro
Steffes Group
McCann Mechanical Inc.
FIBRENEW Southeast Iowa

SEIBA Golf Outing 2026



Brad Helmerson, Kyle Helmerson, Kiley Miller, and Josh Hill













Another Great Day on the Course

The Annual SEIBA Golf Outing took place August 24 at Burlington Golf Club, and what a day it was. For the second year in a row, we had a full field of 36 teams, backed by great support from our sponsors and volunteers. The weather cooperated again, too, giving us a beautiful day on the course. With nice days becoming limited this time of year, we're grateful that our members could come together for golf, networking, and plenty of fun.

Raising Funds for SEIBA

This year's outing brought in approximately $21,000. Thank you to our community, members, volunteers, and sponsors for making this annual event such a success. We couldn't do it without you.

Congratulations to Our Winners

Congratulations to the winning team of Brad Helmerson, Kyle Helmerson, Kiley Miller, and Josh Hill, who finished with a score of 51. We also recognized the last-place team with a special prize. It's a tradition we're happy to keep going.

Save the Date

Next year's outing is scheduled for August 31, with a rain date of September 13. A few hole sponsors have already signed up, so if you'd like to claim your favorite hole, email seiba@mchsi.com.

SEIBA Auction Breaks the Record Again

This year's auction was one for the record books. SEIBA raised **$72,808**, making it our best auction to date. Thank you to everyone who came out and took part. The house was packed, and it was a great evening of networking, conversation, and community.

A Little Different This Year

We tried something new this year, and it turned into one of the highlights of the night. The BHS SkillsUSA team donated the Rocket Stove that won the Iowa SkillsUSA state competition. SEIBA auctioned it off twice, bringing in a remarkable **$10,000**. The student who built it, Matteo Moreira , got to take the stove home after all that.





Then the floor opened up for donations to help send the team to the national competition in Georgia. In all, SEIBA members raised **$16,470** for these students.

That is the generosity and support our members show year after year, and it makes a real difference for the next generation of tradespeople. Thank you.

Save the Date

Mark your calendar: next year's auction is **April 9** at the **Great River Event Center** (formerly Catfish Bend Convention & Event Center). We hope to see you all there.



WHERE DOES WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BEGIN?

IT STARTS EARLIER THAN YOU THINK

SEIBA EDUCATION COMMITTEE







Ask most builders where the next generation of skilled workers comes from, and you'll hear about apprenticeships, job postings, and hiring events. Those efforts matter. But research on career development points to a harder truth: they all begin at the moment a person is ready to enter the workforce, and for many young people, the most important decisions have already been made by then.

A recent article by Dr. Sascha Harrell of Purdue University's Indiana Manufacturing Competitiveness Center makes the case that interests, confidence, and a sense of "this is a field for someone like me" start forming in childhood and early adolescence. By middle and high school, many students have already decided whether fields like construction, manufacturing, and technology are places where they belong. Her research also found that the strongest student experiences came from teachers who were confident and supported, more than from schools with the newest equipment. Her conclusion is that industry should invest earlier, invest in educators, and build lasting partnerships with schools rather than relying on one-time events.

That is exactly what the SEIBA Education Program is built to do.

Supporting Teachers and Classrooms: School Grants

Every fall, SEIBA offers grants to help area schools update the tools and equipment in their industrial technology and trades programs. This years grant applications are open to schools and grants are being submitted. Reach out to area schools to assist and support their grant applications. The Education Committee will review the applications and will bring its recommendations to the board for final approval.

These grants do more than buy equipment. They give teachers the resources to deliver the kind of hands-on, real-world instruction that shows students what a career in the







Opening Doors: Scholarships

SEIBA also awards scholarships to area students pursuing the trades and construction-related careers. Below is a list of new scholarship recipient awards. Encourage current seniors to apply for this year's scholarships this spring.

Carsen Jones – University of Northern Iowa – Construction Management
Jonathan Ford – Southeastern Community College – Construction Management
Matteo Moreira – Southeastern Community College – Welding Technology
Ruby Ransford – University of Northern Iowa – Electrical Engineering Technology

Reaching Students Early: Build My Future

The research says the earlier students are exposed to a field, the better. That is why Build My Future is the Education Committee's most important event. Build My Future is an interactive career fair for area 7th graders, designed to spark their interest in the construction industry at the age when they are beginning to form ideas about their future. Instead of listening to presentations, students get their hands on real tools, materials, and activities led by the people who do this work every day. For many of them, it will be the first time they picture themselves in a career in the trades.

Mark your calendar: Thursday, May 6, 2027, at Des Moines County Fairgrounds.

We Need You at Build My Future

Build My Future happens because of our exhibitors. Every booth, demonstration, and hands-on activity comes from a SEIBA member willing to show students what the work is really like. You don't need a large display or a big budget. Some of the most popular activities are simple: drive a nail, read a tape measure, wire a switch, lay a few bricks, or try out equipment.

Consider what a 7th grader sees at your booth: a professional who is proud of the work, a skill they can try for themselves, and proof that this is a career with a future. That experience may be the first step toward a skilled worker on your jobsite ten years from now.

How to get involved:

- **Become an exhibitor.** Sign up at https://tinyurl.com/BMF-27-EXHIBITOR .
- **Volunteer** to help on the day of the event.
- **Sponsorships** to financially support the expenses of the event.

Contact any member of the SEIBA Education Committee with questions.

The skilled workforce we need tomorrow is sitting in 7th grade classrooms today. Join us on May 6 and help them see what's possible.

Exhibitor

build SEIBA My Future

Volunteer

PLEASE JOIN US AT THE

SEIBA CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

10 DECEMBER

5-7 PM

INTERESTED IN BEING AN EVENT SPONSOR EMAIL SEIBA@MCHSI.COM

MARTINI'S GRILLE

build SEIBA

My Future

Building Tomorrow's Workforce