

UNITED



2020



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For additional information, contact:

Tripp Cook, Manager of Marketing and Member Services
770.760.9660 | Tripp@naec.org

2020 UNITED CONVENTION & EXPOSITION ALL-VIRTUAL EXPERIENCE

October 8, 2020 - Nearly 900 participants representing the vertical transportation industry all over globe took part in the first ever 2020 UNITED Virtual Convention & Exposition from September 14-16. In a time of reduced access to events, this year's trade show and programming has added accessibility. The event will remain online and available through the end of October for attendants of the show and new registrants interested in the many trade show and educational offerings.

The event traditionally takes place every four years hosted by the UNITED Partners: the Canadian Elevator Contractors Association (CECA), Elevator U, International Association of Elevator Consultants (IAEC) and the National Association of Elevator Contractors (NAEC).

Originally slated to be a live event in Houston, national events changed best-laid plans to re-invent this event in new and creative ways. During the three day event, industry professionals gathered online to take part of UNITED 2020 which comprised of 70 exhibitors with over 80 booths, 11 education sessions and discussions, and three on-demand educational sessions.

UNITED 2020 officially kicked off on Monday with the UNITED partners' individual business sessions.

Exhibitor Networking Lounges began the second day of event. Attendees were able to watch live presentations, network, and have one-on-one consultations with experts.

After the official welcome by CECA President Doug Guderian; Elevator U President Eddie Morris; IAEC President John Koshak; and NAEC President Donald Gelestino, keynote speaker Robert Stevenson gave an energizing illustration on the importance of change entitled, *If You Don't Like Change, You Are Going to Hate Extinction*. Following his presentation, the Exhibit Halls opened, and attendees browsed through the virtual trade show floor visiting booths and engaging in one-on-one chats with personnel. They were also able to pick up exhibitor collateral, watch videos and leave their business cards.

Just as at a live event, the education sessions also commenced. Many of the sessions offered educational credits and will remain online through the end of October along with the trade show floor. Visit unitedconvention.com to view the educational sessions and to register.

The Awards Presentation opened up the final day of UNITED 2020 where each association president had the opportunity to announce their award recipients. Recognition was also given at respective partner business sessions. CECA honored Sean Cowen of ThyssenKrupp with the President's Award, Allan Hopkirk of Trident Elevator as their newest Honorary Member, and also expressed their appreciation to long-time members. Elevator U shared a photo appreciation of their members and events of the past year. IAEC honored John Rearick (Rearick & Company) and Gregory Sacks (Superior Elevator Inspections & Consulting) with the Qualified Elevator Consultants Awards. NAEC honored Zap Supply with the Contractors' Choice Award and President Donald Gelestino presented both the William C. Sturgeon Distinguished Service and President's Awards to Louis J. Blaiotta, Jr. (Columbia Elevator Products). This is the first in NAEC history for one person to receive both awards in the same year.

Following the Awards Presentation, the Exhibit Halls opened the last day of the Virtual Trade Show. The first ever UNITED Virtual Convention & Expo came to a close with a few words from Eddie Morris, UNITED Chairman.

Industry professionals may still register for free to visit the booths, pick up exhibitor collateral, watch videos, and leave their business card. For those who need continuing education credits, the Education package can be added to their registration for \$95 USD. Registration contact: Britnee Irwin, Britnee@naec.org.

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