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National Kitchen & Bath Association #NextUp Event: A Winner on Many Levels

Association drives initiatives to build awareness of careers in skilled trades

HACKETTSTOWN, NJ – (March 19, 2019) – The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA), the authority on all things residential kitchen and bath, held an event at KBIS 2019 in Las Vegas that solidified its commitment to supporting initiatives that highlight the need for skilled labor in all segments of residential design and construction.

At this year’s Kitchen & Bath Industry Show (KBIS), the NKBA unveiled its #NextUp program and invited 150 high school students from the Clark County School District to the expo. The #NextUp program included a panel discussion, tours of select exhibitors within the trade show, lunch and opportunities to ask professionals what drives them, how they chose their careers and what advice they could provide.

“The kitchen and bath industry’s growth trajectory coupled with the labor shortages we’re seeing in the economy gives us an ideal opportunity to educate the next generation on the many lucrative and creative opportunities we have in this market,” said NKBA CEO Bill Darcy. “The NKBA #NextUp program at KBIS provided an ideal opportunity for us to directly engage with local Las Vegas high school students while connecting them with kitchen and bath professionals so they can gain insight into how they might want to consider structuring their own paths.”

NKBA #NextUp Panel and KBIS Show Floor Tours

During the half-day program, held on Feb. 21, design and construction pros shared stories of their own journeys and career paths. The panel was led by **Karl Champley**, an Australian master builder, television personality and who is currently appearing on “Ellen’s Design Challenge.”



Karl Champley, Moderator

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Other participants included:

Jason Artus, VP Sales & Marketing, Rutt Handcrafted Cabinetry

Jeff Sweenor, Owner, Sweenor Construction

Jonathan Cheever, Journeyman Plumber, LIXL Spokesperson and Olympic and World Cup-winning Snowboarder

Kayleen McCabe, Contractor, TV Host

Rebekah Zaveloff, CKD, Co-founder and Director of Design, Rebekah Zaveloff Interiors, and NKBA Insider

Ryan Herd, Technologist, Owner, 1 Sound Choice, and NKBA Insider

Sheri Gold, CKD/CAPS/CLIPP/LEED AP, National Showroom & Design Manager – GE Monogram Appliances

Trevor Newman, Contractor, Remodeler



Following the panel, students met NKBA executives and practicing designers, tradespeople and other industry professionals while touring the KBIS show floor. Each panelist guided 15 students through the expo, introducing them to products, programs and people in multiple facets of the business. The tours let students see first-hand the latest in kitchen and bath products and technologies, and provided a further glimpse into the creative and lucrative opportunities that a career in this arena can offer.

“This was an amazing opportunity for our students and teachers. They couldn’t stop talking about interacting with such highly-regarded industry professionals and were in awe after touring the trade show floor,” said Craig Brockett, Clark County School District Work-Based Learning Administrator. “We hope this experience motivates students to become the next generation of designers, fabricators, and builders. We can’t thank NKBA enough for organizing this event and we look forward to growing this partnership!”

To view images from the #NextUp program, please click [here](#).

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About the National Kitchen & Bath Association and the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show

The National Kitchen & Bath Association (NKBA) is the not-for-profit trade association that owns the Kitchen & Bath Industry Show® (KBIS), as part of Design & Construction Week® (DCW). With nearly 14,000 member companies representing tens of thousands of members in all segments of the kitchen and bath industry, the NKBA has educated and led the industry since the association's founding in 1963. The NKBA envisions a world where everyone enjoys safe, beautiful and functional kitchen and bath spaces. The mission of the NKBA is to inspire, lead and empower the kitchen and bath industry through the creations of certifications, marketplaces and networks. For more information, visit NKBA.org or call 1-800-THE-NKBA (843-6522).

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