



Dr. Jill Biden, former Second Lady of the United States, addresses The Apprentice School's Class of 2018. Photo by Ashley Cowan

## Apprentice School Graduates 157



The Apprentice School hosted commencement exercises on Saturday, Feb. 23, for 157 graduates at Liberty Baptist Church Worship Center in Hampton.

The ringing of a ceremonial bell by each of the 2018 graduates represented the completion of their apprenticeship, a rigorous four-to eight-year program designed to develop the next generation of shipyard leaders. The Apprentice School, which first opened in 1919 with 126 apprentices, is celebrating its centennial anniversary this year. Over the last 100 years, the school has produced more than 10,800 graduates.

In her commencement address, Dr. Jill Biden, the Second Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017, honorary co-chair of the Biden Foundation and community college professor, congratulated the new class of apprentices and lauded their hard-earned skills. “You are starting a new journey, one where you are a part of a

family with a hundred years of historic accomplishments, one that will continue to shape America’s future,” Biden said. “While there will be times where you face challenges, you should never forget that your work is needed and revered by so many.”

Newport News Shipbuilding President **Jennifer Boykin** told the graduates that their contributions are far greater than building ships.

“To casually say that you build ships falls woefully short of how you serve the United States of America,” Boykin said. “I’m challenging you to think bigger. You build diplomacy, you build democracy, and you build freedom. You are our future, and our legacy is in your capable hands.

“I have no doubt that the dedication, determination and sacrifice that led to your success today will ensure our collective success tomorrow and for centuries to come,” she said.



**Michael Reilley**, left, was named Engineer of the Year, by the Peninsula Engineers Council. **Daniel Hebert**, right, received the Doug Ensor Award. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

## Shipbuilders Receive Engineering Honors



The Peninsula Engineers Council named Newport News Shipbuilding employees **Michael Reilley** (E01) and **Daniel Hebert** (E32) Virginia Peninsula Engineer of the Year and Young Engineer of the Year, respectively. Both were recognized at the group's annual banquet on Sunday, Feb. 24.

"It's a great honor. To me, being recognized by your peers is the ultimate indication that what you're doing is of value," said

Reilley, NNS' chief engineer. He has held a range of engineering and leadership positions supporting the construction and overhaul of aircraft carriers and submarines since coming to NNS in 1984. He most recently served as the propulsion plant director during the successful trial and delivery of USS *Gerald R. Ford* (CVN 78).

In his current role, Reilley leads a staff of experts and is recognized as the technical authority in various disciplines. "I've never been bored here. I've been lucky to have a lot of good opportunities and a lot of good mentors along the way," he said. "I wouldn't be in the chief's office today if it weren't for the people with whom I've worked."

Hebert, who began working at NNS in 2008, received the Doug Ensor Award. The award is named after the founder of the Peninsula Engineers Council and recognizes the early accomplishments of an engineer under 35 with less than 15 years of experience. "Just to have different NNS leaders take the time to write letters of recommendation was an honor in itself, and then to win the award was the icing on the cake," Hebert said.

He serves as the R&D program lead in additive manufacturing and helped pioneer the qualification of 3D metal printing in naval shipbuilding. Hebert's work helped lay the foundation for a significant technical milestone in the industry – the installation of the first 3D metal-printed part of a nuclear-powered vessel.

"I never imagined 10 years ago that I would be sitting here. It's because I've been fortunate to have great mentors. And now, I have the opportunity to mentor others. To help bring someone along is incredible," Hebert said.

Formed in 1970, the Peninsula Engineers Council comprises representatives from organizations dedicated to strengthening and promoting the engineering profession in the Virginia Peninsula area.

## Apprentice School Graduates 157

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

**Kevin McNeill** (E86) received the Homer L. Ferguson Award, which recognizes the apprentice graduating with the highest honors. He is the first African-American student in the school's history to earn the special recognition.

McNeill, who first graduated from North Carolina A&T State University with a degree in electrical engineering, told graduates about living out their own mission.

"I never intended to work as a steel fabrication apprentice, but I've gained experiences and opportunities that I may not have received elsewhere," he said. "I've learned a great deal of discipline and patience. My message for you today is: If you're not where you want to be in your career or you feel like you've strayed off track from your goals, know that each experience is what makes you unique. The path to our destination is never straight. Keep walking with a purpose."

Watch a highlights video of the commencement ceremony on MyNNS. See a copy of the congratulatory ad that appeared in Sunday's *Daily Press* on NNS' external website.



**Kevin McNeill**, the Homer L. Ferguson Award recipient for the Class of 2018, speaks during the graduation ceremony. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

Visit the Huntington Ingalls Industries newsroom for more information about the Class of 2018.



Students from local middle and high schools attended a Women in STEM event earlier this month.

## NNS Partners with CNU for Women in STEM Event



Newport News Shipbuilding and Christopher Newport University (CNU) partnered earlier this month to host a Women in STEM event – the final of a three-part series.

Students from local middle and high schools were invited to CNU's campus to experience what it's like to study engineering and science at the university. Students could participate in a physics lab, tour NNS' Integrated Digital Shipbuilding Mobile Experience trailer, browse STEM exhibits and connect with CNU STEM students and NNS professionals.

**Jessica Gomez**, director of Engineering and Design at NNS, helped lead the event and said it's important to encourage people with unique perspectives and different ways of thinking toward the STEM industry.

“With the pace of change of technology and the challenges we face to solve complex problems in ship design and shipbuilding, it is going to take ever more diverse skillsets and experiences to meet the challenge. So many people may not be familiar with the opportunities that exist or how to navigate the possibilities,” she said. “When academia and industry partner together it can be very powerful and make a difference for those students who are working hard and have their whole lives ahead of them to explore.”

## NNS Access

### Digital Transformation Continues



The IT division is launching a new enterprise application called NNSAccess to streamline the identity and access management process for Newport News Shipbuilding. The goal is to go completely digital by replacing outdated and inefficient systems and procedures, including the Computer User Access System (CUAS) and Green Sheets.

“With the power of NNSAccess, we will now be able to spend our time focused on the business of Identity and Access Management with a truly 21st century product worthy of the workforce it supports,” said **Dara O’Hanlon**, manager of Identity and Access Management.

The rollout will begin in March with NNSAccess password management. This will replace the existing application, NNS Identity Management, for unlocking, changing and syncing passwords.

All users will need to answer the security questions in NNSAccess password management to be able to use the “Forgot My Password” functionality. Users will receive detailed instructions via email.

Later phases of NNSAccess will include provisioning, access request and access review. Provisioning will focus on automating account creation and basic access so that new users can get to work faster. Access request’s objective is to build a catalog of access so that users can request in a shopping cart-like fashion. Access review’s goal will be compliance; performing simple periodic reviews of assigned access to ensure company policies are being met.

For more information, visit the NNSAccess website on MyNNS. The site includes a list of frequently asked questions and allows shipbuilders to provide feedback.



### Reminder: Turn in Mini-Tokens

Mini-tokens have been replaced with YubiKeys. Shipbuilders who still have mini-tokens should send them via Yardmail to IAM, Bldg. 521-2, for recycling. Photo by **Steve Schultz** (T55).

### Spring 2019 Night School Registration Underway

All classes are scheduled to begin the week of April 1 and end the week of May 31. Friday, March 8, is the application deadline. For further information and to view a list of classes and registration information, visit the Night School website, the programs tab on The Apprentice School website or the NNS to Go app.

For questions, contact **Latasha Jarrett** (O22) at 688-8608.

# CELEBRATING AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

## African American Shipbuilders Association Celebrates 10 Years

The African American Shipbuilders Association (AASA) celebrated its 10th anniversary during the employee resource group's annual Black History Month Event Thursday, Feb. 21. This year's theme was "Standing on the Shoulders of Giants."

Using dance, music, art and more, Newport News Shipbuilding employees paid tribute to African-American history and culture. "During Black History Month, we celebrate and salute our ancestors who paved the way before us," said guest speaker Olive Springer-Ezell. "Just think of the turmoil, the brutality of what they had to go through."

Springer-Ezell – a writer, educator, talk show host and historian – told attendees her goal was to educate. The St. Lucia native also shared personal stories, including an interview with civil rights trailblazer Rosa Parks and her push to celebrate Caribbean culture in Hampton Roads.

**Yuvonda Barnes (O53)** was excited to attend the celebration for the first time. "I like that they're educating, because I think some of the young people are forgetting our history. It's not talked about as much," she said. "You have to continue to educate people. It's nothing to be sad about. It's something to embrace and be proud of. We've come a long way."



Shipbuilders sing during the African American Shipbuilders Association's annual Black History Month event. Photo by Matt Hildreth

Another first-time attendee, **Larry Batts (O15)**, was glad to see a diverse group of shipbuilders at the event. "We're all here trying to learn together, and I think it's good to work for a company that encourages this," he said. "I'm going to try to come next year, too. I learned a lot."

**Robin Lee (O53)**, who was named AASA's new president during the event, said her goals are to "raise the bar" and get more young people involved as the organization enters its 10th year. "I'm always happy with this event because it gives us an opportunity to showcase what we do, our culture and how we can incorporate it into shipyard business," she said.

## Shipbuilders Go "Down Under" to Share Knowledge

As Australia works to re-establish a sustainable shipbuilding workforce, the nation has called upon American subject matter experts – including those at Newport News Shipbuilding – to provide critical knowledge.

Australia is contracting with Huntington Ingalls Industries to provide subject matter experts from NNS and Ingalls Shipbuilding. Groups of shipbuilders from the HII divisions have traveled to the Naval Shipbuilding College in Osborne, South Australia, as part of a three-year contract to help develop curriculum to train Australians to become shipbuilders for patrol vessels, destroyers and submarines.

In late 2018, **Steve Gray (X47)**, **Don Brinkley II (X44)**, **Ed Spruill (X91)** and **Will Prescott (O22)** traveled to Australia to review course curriculum and job roles and responsibilities for planners, schedulers and program management. The group met with Australian shipbuilding companies, vocational schools and universities to align course curriculum.

"This trip was on my bucket list of places to go. To have our

company send me to this part of the world as a planning subject matter expert was an extreme compliment and I was very grateful for this opportunity," Gray said.

Other subject matter experts are currently onsite and continue to support the multifaceted project to guide Australian allies in the shipbuilding industry.

"The HII subject matter experts have been providing insight and guidance – not providing our company process or secrets to shipbuilding – but rather giving them advice on re-establishment of the new shipbuilding techniques and process for building warships," Gray said.

The overall goal is to make Australians self-sufficient in shipbuilding processes for all trade work after a decades-long lull in ship construction. The Australian government is investing \$90 billion into its shipbuilding industry.

## AROUND THE YARD

### Supply Chain Procurement Focuses on Employee Engagement



Since its establishment last year, the Supply Chain Procurement (O51) Engagement Team has worked tirelessly to improve morale and help move the company forward.

“Our team is motivated to increase morale, employee engagement and to make O51 and NNS as a whole, a fun place to work, said team member **Moriah Montoya**. “I have received positive feedback from my peers and feel like our hard work is really paying off.”

In October, the team hosted its second department-wide event, a football-themed spirit week and tailgate party. The week kicked off with NNS logo day, during which employees from O51, Supplier Quality (O05) and Material Management (X46) donned NNS-logged gear. The goal was to have employees display their shipbuilder pride the same way students in high school or college show support and pride for their school.

The rest of the week included dress like a twin day, silly socks and crazy hat day, dress for success day and jersey day. Daily participation was documented with group photos and the week culminated with a tailgate luncheon.

“Our engagement team just wanted to give our co-workers at least 30 minutes of being able to enjoy each other and connect,” said team lead **Shenelle Futrell**. “The feedback received was very positive, not only from O51 employees, but from other departments that participated alongside O51 and/or noticed the change in demeanor from everyone on the second floors in Bldgs. 520 and 872.”



Shipbuilders celebrate jersey day.

In December, the department held ugly sweater and door decorating contests. Each buying office decorated their respective manager 3's office door and was judged by **Bryan Caccavale**, vice president of Supply Chain Management, as well as directors **Stephanie Conover** and **Ray Montgomery**. Groups led by **Kim Humphrey**, **Lori Johnson** and **Will Rinck**, placed first, second and third in the door-decorating contest, respectively.

The Engagement Team has planned a Mardi Gras brunch for March 5 and is working on other events for 2019, including the return of the spirit week.

### One City Marathon to Cause Road Closures this Weekend

In preparation for the One City Marathon, which will take place on Sunday, March 3, roads around Newport News Shipbuilding will be closed in advance of the race beginning Friday evening, March 1.

NNS is a proud sponsor of the race. The marathon starts at Newport News Park on Constitution Way and ends at the Victory Arch near West Avenue. Following the race, participants are invited to the “One City One Celebration” along Washington Avenue between 26th and 27th streets. Other activities include the Maritime 8K, Marathon Relay and Nautical Mile Fun Run.

Later this week, shipbuilders will receive additional information on road closure and on-street parking restriction information.



**Newport News  
Shipbuilding  
Gives**

### United Way Campaign Begins March 4

Newport News Shipbuilding's 2019 United Way campaign will run from March 4-22. A new digital giving platform, Newport News Shipbuilding Gives, is launching this year and will make it easier than ever for shipbuilders to support United Way.

Starting next week, United Way pop-ups will be located across the shipyard to help familiarize shipbuilders with Newport News Gives. Locations for the week of March 4 are listed to the right. Check *Currents* for future pop-up locations.

#### Monday, March 4

- 5:45 to 7:15 a.m.: Applebees, Bldg. 902
- 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.: The Rock, Bldg. 4633
- 2:15 to 4:15 p.m.: Bldgs. 77 and 1744

#### Wednesday, March 6

- 5:45 to 7:15 a.m.: Bldgs. 520 and 901
- 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.: Applebees, Bldg. 903
- 2:15 to 4:15 p.m.: Net Center, The Apprentice School
- 8 to 8:30 p.m.: Applebees

#### Friday, March 8

- 5:45 to 7:15 a.m.: The Rock
- 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.: VASCIC, Bldg. 600
- 2:15 to 4:15 p.m.: Bldgs. 160 and 161, Applebees

## DATEBOOK

### FEBRUARY 26

Shipbuilders are invited to meet the HII Family Health Center's newest doctors at a meet and greet event from 1 until 6 p.m. Eligible employees and their families can visit with the staff, learn about the health center's services and enter a drawing to win a YETI cooler. Free flu shots will also be available with no appointments needed.

### FEBRUARY 27

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in VASCIC-3 West. The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, shipbuilders should email their name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date to [PEERProgram@hii-nns.com](mailto:PEERProgram@hii-nns.com).

### FEBRUARY 28

The "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club will host a speech contest meeting from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (Executive Dining Room). The event is open to all Newport News Shipbuilding employees, and no RSVP is required. The event will provide a forum for employees to learn how to become more effective communicators and leaders. Contestants have a chance to compete at the Toastmasters International Area 45 International and Table Topics Speech Contest. For more information, contact **Jason Paquette** (E83) at 534-2770

### MARCH 13

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 600-1 (Conference Room A). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email [PEERProgram@hii-nns.com](mailto:PEERProgram@hii-nns.com) with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

### MARCH 16-17

The best and brightest high school robotics teams will compete during the *FIRST* Robotics Chesapeake District Hampton Roads Competition. The event, sponsored by Newport News Shipbuilding/SEEKns, will be held at Churchland High School in Portsmouth March 16 and 17 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Admission is free, and families are welcome. Anyone interested in volunteering should contact **Lewis Fisher** (X46) at 688-4761 or **Chris Garrity** (E73) at 688-0432 as soon as possible.

### MARCH 19

Newport News Shipbuilding's engagement and inclusion and diversity champions are partnering to host an Enable the Workforce Expo. It will include a variety of exhibitors on topics specifically designed for shipbuilders, breakout sessions, door prizes and more. The expo is open to all shipbuilders, but breakout sessions will require registration. Look for more information in upcoming editions of *Currents*. There will be three sessions – from 6 until 8 a.m., 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. and 3:30 until 5:30 p.m. – in Bldg. 520-6. Another expo will be held in June on the waterfront. Contact **Danyelle Saunders** (K49) at 688-7762 or via email for questions.

### MARCH 20

The Professional Enhancement and Enrichment Rotation (PEER) Program is hosting a learn at lunch (bring your own lunch) event for potential candidates from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. in Bldg. 160-2 (EOC). The program is open to salaried individual contributors. To sign up, email [PEERProgram@hii-nns.com](mailto:PEERProgram@hii-nns.com) with your name, department, phone number and learn at lunch date.

### MARCH 26

Ready for tax season? Attend the "Tax Planning" SmartPath class to see how the new tax laws affect you. Classes are offered at noon in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room) and 4:30 p.m. in VASCIC (2 West Dining Area). Email [BeWell@hii-co.com](mailto:BeWell@hii-co.com) to register for your preferred class time or ask your foreman to register you. PTO/flex is required during scheduled work hours.

### MARCH 26

Newport News Shipbuilding's American Cancer Society Relay For Life team will host a kickoff event from 4:15 until 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (Executive Dining Room). Employees who are interested in participating in Relay For Life can sign up at the kickoff. For more information, contact **Adam Krininger** (PEER M40) at 380-4286.

### MARCH 26

The L.E.A.R.N. Program will host an after-work presentation with **Bharat Amin**, vice president and chief information officer, from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). The event is open to all employees by reservation only. Sign-up on the L.E.A.R.N. website on MyNNS. For questions, contact **Tanika Vasquez** (E08) at 688-7916, **Helen Dennie** (O28) at 380-4831 or email [LEARN@hii-nns.com](mailto:LEARN@hii-nns.com).



## Watch Focus NNS

The latest edition of Focus NNS examines the impact of the two-ship buy for *Enterprise* (CVN 80) and CVN 81, takes a look at the shops helping bring *John F. Kennedy* (CVN 79) to life and provides a glimpse of dedication and groundbreaking ceremonies for NNS' 16th and 17th Habitat for Humanity homes, respectively.

### REMINDER: PARKING AT BLDGS. 902 AND 903

As a reminder, aqua decal parking is available on the first floor of parking garages at Bldgs. 902 and 903, not including the ramp to the second floor. Aqua parking is also available in the surface lot behind Julius Conn Gym.

Surface lots surrounding Bldgs. 902 and 903 are designated Zone 1 parking. Second, third and fourth decks, including the ramp from the first to second floor, in both garages are designated Zone 2 parking.

Shipbuilders should pay close attention to where they park and ensure credentials (hangtag and/or decal) are clearly displayed on dashboards. Illegally parked vehicles will be towed at the owner's expense.

Parking notices, including this one, are available on NNS' Parking and Transportation website.

## SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit [www.buildyourcareer.com](http://www.buildyourcareer.com) to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
CNC Machinist	24205BR	M53	Newport News
Experienced Inside Machinist	27490BR	X43	Newport News
Trainee Outside Machinist	27506BR	X43	Newport News
Experienced Outside Machinist	27491BR	X43	Newport News
Experienced Structural Welder	28468BR	X18	Newport News
Engineer Planning Analyst 2	27509BR	E44	Newport News
Production Planning and Scheduler 3	28718BR	X10	Newport News
Project Management Analyst 2	27368BR	E83	Newport News
Foreman Craft Instructor	28628BR	O22	Newport News
Foreman Foundry Steel Melt	27712BR	A572	Newport News
Manager Engineering 2	28592BR	E81	Newport News
Manager Test Engineering 2	28606BR	E84	Newport News
Manager Information Security Governance, Risk and Compliance 3	27974BR	N365	Newport News
Director Accounting 2	28664BR	N365	Newport News
Director Business Development 2	28654BR	N359	Newport, R.I.

Employees are encouraged to use the "Current HII Employees" portal to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit [www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend](http://www.huntingtoningalls.com/careers/refer-a-friend) for more information.

# SMALLTALK

about big ideas

## Kindness: One Word, Eight Letters, Big Meaning

**By Jennifer Boykin**  
President, Newport News Shipbuilding

Last week, I was fortunate to hear an essay that left a lasting impression on me.

I was attending a United Way of the Virginia Peninsula celebration event, and the essay won first place in a United Way-sponsored elementary school essay contest. It was about kindness, and it was written by Dare Elementary School Fifth Grader Gracie Morehouse. In the essay, Gracie shared a conversation she had with her father. She wanted to make a big change in the world, and her father told her that if she could help one person in need, it would be a big change for that person.

Gracie understood what her father meant. When she was in the fourth grade, Gracie's teacher showed her kindness she described as life changing. In her essay, she summed it up this way: "Kindness is doing something because you honestly care, and because you care, you take action. Even the smallest act of kindness amounts to something, and little by little, the more we care, the more we act, the better things will be."

Gracie's words were simple; her message powerful. Her essay reaffirmed my commitment to United Way, a cause I've supported since my first day with the company and one I will continue to support when Newport News Shipbuilding's 2019 "Kindness Creates Community" campaign kicks off March 4. Every penny donated will go directly toward helping people in need—people in our own communities—and even one dollar will show kindness and make a big difference.

I know, because like Gracie, I have been on the receiving end of kindness. Growing up as the middle of five children, my family benefited from many United Way partner organizations that helped shaped who I am today.

And I'm proud to lead a company whose employees demonstrate kindness in so many ways. Our employees have helped build a total 16 Habitat for Humanity homes, donated thousands of pounds of food to the Virginia Peninsula Food Bank, donated an average 1,100 pints of blood per year, and so much more.

We also have people like X36 Master Shipbuilder Marjorie West who quietly show kindness in their own way. For 10 years, Marjorie mentored a child with Big Brothers, Big Sisters. She spent one day a week with a little girl from a troubled home. The pair biked together, walked together, spent time together. Marjorie was her safe person—someone the little girl could talk to and trust. And for Marjorie, the little girl was the child to love that she always wanted. Marjorie described the experience as "an honor" that gave her a greater sense of wellbeing.

Kindness is rewarding, and in the words of 11-year-old Gracie Morehouse, kindness doesn't have to be hard. It's one word, eight letters, but it represents a big meaning.

As Virginia's largest industrial employer, we have the ability to make a big difference. Thank you for the kindness you show every day. I will always continue my commitment, and I hope you will, too. United Way is a lot like the shipyard. The organization doesn't run away from a problem—it runs toward it. Let's run with them and share the kindness our community deserves.



*(From left) Jennifer Boykin, Gracie Morehouse and Terrie Edwards, United Way of the Virginia Peninsula's 2019 campaign chairwoman, posed for a photo during the United Way's celebration event last week.*