

CURRENTS

7 | 20 | 2020

A weekly publication of Newport News Shipbuilding



Employees work in a hoteling space that is open for shipbuilders who primarily work remotely. Photo by Matt Hildreth

A New Type of Office Debuts at NNS



It's a new era for office employees. The traditional office is giving way to the digital office, and Newport News Shipbuilding's Business Transformation and Technology (BT&T) Department (T54) is working on a remote-working model.

"There are a few obstacles to overcome, but they are minor in comparison to the benefits the company and employees will reap from the flexible work arrangement," said T54 Director **Tom Jones**.

When the COVID-19 pandemic began, T54 started searching for ways to provide a safe, effective and long-term flexible working solution. The department's flexible work arrangement proof of concept will free up 88 cubicles – about 70% – for use by other groups or departments. Small teams of up to 21 employees will use the hoteling space one day every two weeks.

This plan allows teams to maintain comradery, have one-on-one meetings with managers, work on-site with suppliers, get required signatures, and other administrative tasks, while adhering to COVID-19 guidelines including wearing masks, social distancing and sanitization at the start and end of each shift. Over a two-week timeframe, about 200 employees will be able to use this small space.

The transition from desk phones to soft phones using Voice Over IP (VoIP) is one of the primary technologies enabling this flexible work arrangement. VoIP technology allows users to communicate via voice using their computer coupled with a headset instead of being attached to a desk phone in a single office space. As a bonus, this transition removes the...



2020 Honorees Announced

Newport News Shipbuilding President **Jennifer Boykin** has announced the recipients of the 2020 Model of Excellence award. It is NNS' highest honor and recognizes individuals and teams for their performance and accomplishments in five categories that align with NNSFORWARD Strategy priorities.

See the insert to view this year's honorees.

The Apprentice School Approved as an Institution of Higher Learning

The Apprentice School has been approved by the State Council of Higher Education for Virginia to operate as a postsecondary institution. The certification gives the school the authority to grant academic degrees, further enhancing its national reputation as the model apprenticeship program.

The school plans to grant associates of applied science degrees in maritime technology in 26 disciplines, including maintenance electrician, marine designer, nuclear test technician and modeling and simulation program analyst. Final approval of the degree programs by the Council of Occupational Education is expected to be made later this year.

"This is an historic milestone for The Apprentice School," said **Xavier Beale**, vice president of Trades. "Our ability to offer academic degrees deepens our commitment to workforce development and will open new opportunities for our company to help to meet the ever-growing demand for skilled workers in our region."

The Apprentice School affords apprentices the opportunity to earn academic degrees through its existing partnerships with institutions of higher education.

A New Type of Office Debuts at NNS

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

...expense of maintaining phone sets along with the requirement of patching for security vulnerabilities.

“A remote workforce positively impacts parking and the availability of office space. As the company hires more people working in offices, creating spaces to accommodate new employees has been a challenge,” said **Julie Coke**, Office Space Planning and Utilization Team lead.

As the BT&T team has grown in recent years, employees have been shifted out of offices in Bldg. 521 to Bldg. 903, Brooks Crossing and other buildings due to lack of space.

“Overall, we believe this approach to remote working with hoteling office space will accommodate our business needs, provide a reduced overhead cost for NNS and promote a more engaged and productive workforce,” said **Jim O’Brien**, director of Facilities. “In a recent survey, our team indicated that there is a higher level of productivity with fewer distractions when working from home.”

Employees working from home could save on costs for commuting, parking, lunches and clothing. Other possible benefits for the company include a reduction in costs for utilities and printing.

T-shirt Sales Will Support COVID-19 Response

The COVID-19 pandemic is more than a health crisis. Newport News Shipbuilding employees can help support local nonprofits helping those in the community as they deal with the pandemic’s ripple effect.

“Throughout the crisis, NNS shipbuilders have been leading the way – staying safe and staying strong – much like the ships we build,” said **Judy Fundak** (K18).

Shipbuilders can purchase an NNS “Stay Safe, Stay Strong” T-shirt for \$20. For each shirt purchased, \$10 will be donated equally to the Virginia Peninsula Foodbank and the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula’s Community COVID Relief Fund, an umbrella fund supporting local health and human services nonprofits.

Purchase T-shirts at <https://trademark-printing.myshopify.com>.

Breast Cancer Awareness Face Masks Available

Shipbuilders can purchase reusable face masks in support of the Making Strides Against Breast Cancer effort through Aug. 7.

Proceeds from sales will support investment in groundbreaking breast cancer research, services – such as access to mammograms – for women diagnosed with the disease, and the availability of free information to help educate others about the warning signs.

Masks are available in charcoal or pink and cost \$9 each or \$17 for a pack with one pink and one charcoal mask. The two-ply masks have an over-the-ear design and feature a shipyard design.

To purchase masks or for more information, contact **Paula Young** (O68) at 688-7634 or via email, **Aimee Hicks** (O68) at 380-7775 or via email, or **Brenda Meekins** (O26) at 380-3239 or via email.



The Apprentice School plans to grant associates of applied science degrees in maritime technology in 26 disciplines. Photo by **Matt Hildreth**

The Apprentice School Approved as an Institution of Higher Learning

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

The new certification now gives the school the ability to grant and confer degrees on its own.

The approval to operate as a degree-granting institution comes after an extensive yearlong process that took into consideration the program’s impact on state and regional economies, as well as students’ success. It also comes after The Apprentice School established its first certificate program in 2019, awarding maritime studies certificates to apprentices who successfully complete the World Class Shipbuilding Curriculum.

The Apprentice School offers four- to eight-year, tuition-free apprenticeships in 19 trades and nine optional advanced programs. Apprentices work a 40-hour week and are paid for all work, including time spent in academic classes. Through partnerships with Thomas Nelson Community College, Tidewater Community College and Old Dominion University, The Apprentice School’s academic program provides the opportunity to earn associate degrees in business administration, engineering and engineering technology and bachelor’s degrees in mechanical or electrical engineering.

Shipbuilder Shares COVID-19 Survival Story

Coughing, fever, loss of smell and taste, and difficulty breathing. **Wilton Ferebee** (X31) battled these Coronavirus symptoms to the point where he thought he'd lose his life. As a survivor, he shares his story to advocate wearing face masks to slow the spread of the virus.

Within Ferebee's 41-year career at Newport News Shipbuilding as a deck electrician specialist, he never missed work for a severe illness – until his COVID-19 diagnosis in April. "It was scary, mind-blowing and confusing," he said. A few days after his diagnosis, his symptoms worsened. "I couldn't breathe," he said. "I was on the floor."

Ferebee's wife, Cathy called 911 and a rescue squad arrived at the couple's home in Hampton. "His eyes were red and tears were coming down his face," she said. "I told him to calm down and breathe slowly." The EMTs rushed her husband to a hospital. "I broke down when they took him in the ambulance," she said through tears. "I felt like I couldn't breathe, but I knew I had to stay calm."

Ferebee spent three days in a hospital intensive care unit, dependent on a ventilator. "Within my inner being I prayed because I couldn't talk," he said. "I said Lord, help me. And then I heard a voice say, 'breathe now' and then I felt my lungs expanding."

After his release from the hospital, Ferebee returned home and quarantined upstairs for 21 days, while his wife stayed on the first floor. "Can you imagine being married 35 years, and I hadn't seen her for 21 days," he said. "I was going stir-crazy in that room."

Cathy Ferebee said she couldn't wait for quarantining to end. "We talked on the phone like we were dating," she laughed.



Wilton Ferebee has recovered from COVID-19 and returned to work at Newport News Shipbuilding. Photo by Lena Wallace

"We would talk for hours." She said she constantly wore a face mask, goggles, covered her hair, and disinfected their home. "When it came time to eat, I would put the food tray by his door, knock and leave." She said she put towels under the door to prevent exposure. "We had a schedule."

Throughout quarantine, Wilton Ferebee's health improved, and he became COVID-19 free. His wife didn't get the virus. The Newport News Shipbuilding clinic cleared Wilton Ferebee to return to work on June 1. He immediately told his co-workers about his experience.

"Wash your hands and wear your mask," he said. "You can help yourself as well as another person."

Watch a video interview with Wilton Ferebee on MyNNS. As a reminder, shipbuilders can visit nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411 to review all information regarding the company's response to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Virtual School Tools Drive Begins July 27

Newport News Shipbuilding's annual School Tools Drive will be virtual this year and run from July 27 until Aug. 7. With the impact of COVID-19, shipbuilders' help is needed now more than ever to provide essential school supplies for underserved children to get them back on track and help them succeed.

School supply donations will be distributed to departments of social

services in Newport News, Hampton and York/Poquoson; Boys & Girls Clubs of the Virginia Peninsula; and ForKids.

Check next week's edition of *Currents* for information about how to donate to the virtual drive.

The Company Store Offering Online Ordering

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, in-person shopping is not currently available at the Company Store, located at The Apprentice School. However, the store is offering select items for purchase online.

The catalog and order form are available on MyNNS and at www.as.edu. Orders will be processed weekly. Customers will be

contacted via email or text message when their order is ready for pickup at The Apprentice School. Purchases can be paid for via payroll deduction or credit card. Face masks are required when picking up items.

Email companystore@as.edu or thecompanystore@hii-nns.com for more information.

DATEBOOK

JULY 7-28

Attend weekly mindfulness webinars to learn relaxation techniques to reduce stress when life gets tough. Webinars take place on Tuesdays in July from noon to 12:30 p.m. Visit www.myquadmedical.com/hii to register.

JULY 22-31

Newport News Shipbuilding's Engagement Office is hosting a "Back to the Future" Expo July 22-31. The virtual event will allow shipbuilders to explore different innovation and technology initiatives at NNS. For more information, listen to the Engage Forward podcast or visit the Engagement website on MyNNS.

JULY 22

The African American Shipbuilders Association (AASA) is looking for volunteers and blood donors for a sickle cell anemia drive from 7:30 a.m. until 1:30 p.m. in Bldg. 520-6 (James River Room). To schedule an appointment, email corporatcitizenship@hii-nns.com.

JULY 22

Ever been tempted to borrow from your 401(k)? Attend SmartPath's July webinar to learn the pros and cons of 401(k) loans and the unique rules associated with them. Register at www.joinsmartpath.com/hii/classes for the noon webinar. All employees have access to SmartPath at no cost.

JULY 23

Shipbuilders looking to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills are invited to join an online "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club Zoom meeting from 5 until 6 p.m. RSVP by July 22 to receive further meeting details. Contact **Jamar Skyles** (X44) and **Michael Miller** (E37) at spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com from a personal email address.

JULY 29

Learn how to combine fruit and protein to make delicious summer salads. BeWell for Life's team will host live virtual demonstrations at noon and 4 p.m. via Zoom. Log into www.myquadmedical.com/hii for details. Employees should access Zoom from a personal device.

AUGUST 13

Shipbuilders looking to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills are invited to join an online "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club Zoom meeting from 5 until 6 p.m. RSVP by Aug. 12 to receive further meeting details. Contact **Jamar Skyles** (X44) and **Michael Miller** (E37) at spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com from a personal email address.

AUGUST 27

Shipbuilders looking to sharpen speaking, listening and leadership skills are invited to join an online "Spear and Gear" Toastmasters Club Zoom meeting from 5 until 6 p.m. RSVP by Aug. 26 to receive further meeting details. Contact **Jamar Skyles** (X44) and **Michael Miller** (E37) at spearandgeartoastmastersclub@gmail.com from a personal email address.



REMINDER: Face Coverings Required

As a reminder, face coverings must be worn when in line and placing orders with food vendors at Newport News Shipbuilding. When possible, shipbuilders also should practice social distancing.

Review NNS' mask guidance at nns.huntingtoningalls.com/411.

SEEKING SHIPBUILDERS

Visit www.buildyourcareer.com to search for the latest NNS job openings.

Job Title	Req Number	Dept.	Location
Engineer Construction 4	1958	O41	Newport News
Engineer Electrical 3	789	E 11	Newport News
Engineer Material Process 3	2006	E33	Newport News
Engineer Structural 4	2091	O41	Newport News
Entry-level Blaster	1630	X33	Newport News
Entry-level Pipefitter	1649	X42	Newport News
Experienced Pipefitter	1642	X42	Newport News
iDS Designer 2 – Piping	1903	E92	Newport News
Project Management Analyst 3	2011	X09	Newport News
Supervisor Metrology 1	2105	O68	Newport News

Employees are encouraged to use **MyHR** or the "Current HII Employees Job Search" button at www.buildyourcareer.com to apply. The company continues to offer cash bonus awards for referrals to select positions, visit www.huntingtoningalls.com/hii-careers/refer-a-friend for more information.

NOTICE: APPRENTICE SCHOOL ATHLETICS

The Apprentice School Athletic Department has announced it will not compete in athletic competition this fall. The baseball, football and golf seasons are immediately impacted. Portions of the wrestling and men's and women's basketball seasons also will be impacted. The United States Collegiate Athletic Association (USCAA) anticipates sports may resume in January. Visit www.gobuilders.com for more information.





Shipbuilders,

Now more than ever, it is important to celebrate the good in this world and to recognize excellence when we see it. At Newport News Shipbuilding, more than 25,000 women and men come to work each day to do their best and give their all in support of our nation's defense. Each year, we recognize the best of the best with the President's Model of Excellence Award, the highest honor presented to shipbuilders who exemplify our company values, raise the bar for excellence, and move our company forward.

This year, 272 shipbuilders have earned this prestigious recognition. Their work stands as an example for all shipbuilders – including me!

Please join me in congratulating our 2020 Model of Excellence Award honorees on a job well done!

All the best,

Jennifer Boykin
President, Newport News Shipbuilding



TRANSFORM BUSINESS OPERATIONS

Agents of Subcontract Negotiation: Transforming NNS Business Dynamics

Karen Enos, K22; Needham Jones III, K22; Dave Kriner, O51;
Julie Menna, O51; Logan Miller, O51; Andy Rantanen, O19
Nominator: Bryan Caccavale, O11

Digital Preparedness and Recovery Team: Safeguarding a Mission-Critical Network

Steve Battalio, T54; Michael Bohannon, T51; Cliff Carr, T54;
John Conroy Jr., T54; Thomas Dixon, T54; Christopher Dove, T54;
Matthew Downing, T54; Will Ferguson, T54; Timothy Henness, T54;
Todd Imbriaco, T54; James Johnson, T54; Zachary Leatherwood, T54;
Robert Mackie Jr., T54; Bob Pelletier, T54; Robert Raines, T56;
David Reineri, T54; Jeremy Scicchitano, T54; Rich Slan, T54;
Robert Stukes III, T54; Ryan Tiedemann, T54; Rick Vailati, T54;
Hank Watson, T54; Brian Welliver, T54; Michael Yelle, T54;
Victoria Ziemba, T54
Nominator: Tom Jones, T54

Marine Trades Training Pre-Hire Program Reduces Skills Gap

Marshall Ayres, O26; Lisa Baptiste, O36; Michael Cook, O26;
Kelly Fischer, K21; Larry Horne, K28; Brittany Izzo, O20;
Anne Lewis, K21; Christina Neale, O36; Devin Neighbors, O26;
Cilinte Potter, X70; Kori Searles, O68; Christina Simmons, K21;
Steve Smith, O36; Jan Stark, K21; Susan Swanson, O36;
Landon Symons, X32; Micah Van Ness, X18; James Wallis Jr., O36;
Stephanie White, K21
Nominator: Keisha Pexton, O12

Out-of-the-Box Build Process Supports John F. Kennedy (CVN 79) Launch

Stephen Ashworth, X43; Scott Baker, X43; Dominic Barnes, X43;
Gary Carter, K47; Timothy Curle, X43; Joshua Ferguson, X36;
Daniel Forbes, X43; Barry Freeman, X43; Travis Gault, X43;
Shavenn Hawkins, X36; Adam Horrell, X43; Jimmy Key, X36;
Denise Labo, X43; Brandon Livingston, X36; David McBride, X36;
Joshua Mustard, X36; Mark Neal, X43; Randall Nelson Jr., E24;
Kevin Parker, X01; Nolan Rudisill, X18; David Swain, E24;
Joshua Taylor, X18
Nominator: Adam Horak, X01



Determination Powers Deadline Success In Nuclear Propulsion

Donta Britt, X36; Colin Coke, X43; Cody Connell, X36;
Ryan Everett, X36; Dillon Figurelle, E82; Andy Hammonds, X73;
Kevin Hefner, O39; Eric Johnson, X73; Wayne Laustsen, E82;
Maggie Lewis, E82; Nick McFatter, X43; Wade McLawhorn, X43;
Jason Miller, X43; Joseph Moore, X36; Desmond Pierce, X43;
Quest Ray, X43; Bryce Rilee, X43; Gregory Schafran, E82;
Josh Sterling, E82; Victor Sullivan, X36; David Williams, X73;
Michael Williams, X36; Jim Wright, E85
Nominator: Joe Loch, X73

CONTINUED

Huntington Crew Prevents Potential Catastrophe

Norman Alligood, X36; Jason Batcha, X36; Cedric Moore, X36; Alex Rogers, X36; Allen Sutton, X36
Nominator: David Vandegrift, O61

Pipe Shop Achieves Best-Ever Schedule Performance to Support Launch of John F. Kennedy (CVN 79)

Trent Alcorn, X18; James Boyce Jr., X18; Adam Butler, X18; Franklin Drewry, M30; Mike Edwards, M30; Alton Harris, M30; James Hopkins, X42; Ted Lacey, X18; Michael Lambiase, M30; Maurice Marshall, X42; Russell Moore, M30; David Nemo Jr., X18; Daniel O'Donnell, X42; Matthew O'Quinn, M30; Chaz Orlena, E86; Willie Powell, X18; Charles Pyle Jr., X42; Daniel Stevanoff, X42; Robert Teel, M30; Frank Wanderer, M30
Nominator: Rob Lane, M10

Shifting Approach and Embracing Change to Streamline Loose Fill Installation in Complex Structures

Lysa Anthony, X33; Amani Gillis, X33; William Halverson, X51; Reginald Moore, X33; George Robinson, X33; Scott Satterfield, X36; Joseph Traynham, K46; Heinz Trulley, K46
Nominator: Robert Patsell, K46

USS George Washington (CVN 73) Paint Team's Engagement Results in Execution Excellence

Timothy Banks, X33; Michael Baymon, X33; Bryant Davis, X33; Ronald Dillard, X33; Thomas Evans, X33; Desmond Franklin, X33; Clyde Green II, X33; John Gregory, X71; Nikki Harvey, K45; Wayne Hedgepeth, X33; Dwayne Hickenbotham, X33; David Labuda, X33; Brandon Smith, X33; Larry Trueheart Jr., K45; Damian Turner II, X33; Ricky Wilder, X33; Leonce Wilkerson, X33; Tykinsten Wood, X33
Nominator: Jim Wightman, X70

VCS Casting Sketch Improvement Team

Jason Binns, A572; Brandon Cash, A572; Dara Emami, E32; Matt Esher, E47; Vincent Lau, E47; Casey Morrison II, X80; Jim Noffsinger, E47; Robbie Norford, E06; John Reed II, E47; Nathan Singleton, X57; Darryl Trautner, A572; Brad Welliver, E47; Larry Yavoski, E47
Nominator: Rob Check, O62



GROW THE BUSINESS BASE

Historic VCS Block V Contract Presents a Decade of Opportunity

Carol Barnes, O51; Ken Callaway, O19; Katherine Cannon, O19; Rob Check, O62; Elizabeth Emmett-Smith, O59; Christopher Hoehn, X47; G.C. Jennings, O19; Roger Kelly, O19; John Kuster, O19; Casey Morrison II, X80; Andy Rantanen, O19; John Rice, O19; Les Smith, K79; Paul Tuzzolo, O50; Sarah Walton, O19; Kraig Warthan, O19; Ashley Weymouth-German, O78; Travis Williams, O70
Nominator: Christie Thomas, O70

USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN 78) MTG Design and Repair Sets the Tone for Future Complex System Integration

Curtis Ballard Jr., X09; Clyde Barden IV, K47; Paul Beverly, X43; Donnelle Brumback, E86; Juan Colón, O05; Richard Cortista, X43; Aryn Eason, K47; Christopher Ferguson, E70; James Foshee III, E84; Anthony Gorgone, E70; Johnny Keller, K47; James Kwasny, X36; Raymond Lutz, E70; Christina Negron, E70; Wesley Newman, E70; Leif Romberg, E70; Kenric Scarbrough, E86; Thomas Smith, X43; Lansana Thullah, K47; Brian Timm, E86; Spencer Trevisan, E25; Da'Shawn Turner, X36; Tyre Watkins, X36; Johnny Watts, K47
Nominator: Brian Greene, E70

Whatever It Takes: On Time and Under Budget Repairs Keep USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) Mission-Ready

Roy Ball, X36; Gary Carter, K47; Casey Coates, X18; Ronnie Delk, X11; Larry Earley, K48; Doug Epstein, X36; Kevin Eure, O38; Tyrone Gayles, X36; Donald Gilman III, X43; Ryan Harrell, X18; Robert Hoover, X18; Adam Horrell, X43; John Houston, X18; Keith Jones, O43; Jimmy Key, X36; James Nixon II, X43; Jerry Person, X11; Joshua Pryor, X36; Ivan Robinson, X36; Fabian Sanchez, X18; George Smith, X11; Seth Thayer, X11; David Walton, X31; Richard William, O38; Derek Wilson, X11
Nominator: Danny Reid, O87



LEAD THE WAY

COVID-19 Communications: Building Trust Through Transparency

Stephanie Cherry, O29; Ashley Cowan, O29; Matt Hildreth, O29; Sarah Hughey, O29; Heather Land, O29; Nicholas Langhorne, O29; Hugh Lessig, O29; Matt Mazzoni, O29; Christie Miller, O29; Bryan Moore, O29; Lisa Niebuonrit, O29; Laurel Nopper, O29; Jeannine Owens, O29; Eugene Phillips Jr., O29; Aaron Pritchett, O29; Lauren Shuck, O29; LaMar Smith, O29; Kelli Tatum, O29; Lena Wallace, O29; Kimberly Zayakosky, O29
Nominator: Jennifer Dunn, O11

Making Every Hour Count for Early Delivery of USS George Washington (CVN 73) Repair Materials

Edward Armstrong, X71; Anastasia Baldwin, X31; Jeffrey Beck, E63; Jay Clark Jr., O53; Joshua Flint, K45; Nathan Greene, X70; Kimberli Harris-McBride, O59; Jason Harry, X71; Ryan Hayes, E25; Jimmy Holt, X31; Christopher Jones, X31; Eric Jordan, O53; Joseph Lassiter, K45; David Marsh Jr., X31; Joshua Maskerines, E63; Cory Mitchell, O53; Teresa Mullen, X10; Thomas Norris, X74; Christopher Ott, X31; Kiminey Reid, X31; Jeffrey Thompson, O53; Antonio Wiggins, K45; Shelita Wilson, O53; Richard Woodley, E63; Travis Wyatt, X31
Nominator: Mark Creamer, X71

Maurice Harden: Inspiring to Serve Those Who Serve

Maurice Harden, K47
Nominator: Quentin Hall, X01



Newport News Shipbuilding
A Division of Huntington Ingalls Industries