



## Wisconsin Builders Association®

# Builder of the Year Award

The WBA Builder of the Year Award is the highest honor a builder member can attain. Only one award is given each year. Nominees are judged on his/her professionalism as well as his/her level of activity within WBA, NAHB, and his/her own community.

Bartow Builder's approach to serving their clients with pride, integrity and high quality standards; their prioritization to continuously train and educate staff in order to efficiently and safely operate their construction business; and Brandon's dedicated work at the local, state, and national levels of the building industry make him a worthy recipient of this award.

Brandon became a member of MCHBA, WBA, and NAHB in 2001, shortly after starting his business. He quickly became an active member of MCHBA, joining the Board of Directors in 2003 and serving as President in 2005. He currently is a Board member and Membership Committee chair. He has been honored with the association's Builder of the Year award in 2003, 2008, and 2014. He fervently represents the Association's principles in the community and advocates for the building industry to his peers. He regularly recruits new members through his enthusiasm for the work of the Association and the important advocacy work focused on improving the housing industry. He outspokenly encourages "doing business with a member" ...but doesn't just talk about it, he walks the walk, even using his weekly local radio show to showcase trade partner members. He is very active in the association, always participating in the Home Show, Parade of Homes, hosting and attending Membership Mingles, and sponsoring or attending all association events.

His involvement does not stay local as he is very active in the WBA, serving as President in 2014. As WBA President, he oversaw the Association's legislative work on Uniform Commercial Building Codes (2013 Wisconsin Act 270), Surety Reforms (2013 Wisconsin Act 280), reforms to wall bracing rules, and was particularly involved in reforms to rules for remodeling as his goal was to be sure the WBA advocacy efforts also focused on remodeling. It was an important election year, and Brandon spent much time on the planning and financing of Governor Walker's reelection efforts.

Brandon has also served on the WBA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Local Officers Council, Local Presidents, Development Council and is the past Chair of the WBA Advocacy Group. As Chair of the WBA Membership and Local Officers Group (formerly WBA Membership Committee) he led and exceeded the associations lofty goal of recruiting enough new members to push the WBA above the 9000 member mark. This extraordinary work earned him the WBA Rising Star Award in 2007.

Brandon has attended many NAHB events and is a member of a NAHB 20 Club. His participation in the 20 Club has led to growth and improved operations through shared experience and expertise with the 19 other builders in his group.

In an effort to promote construction careers, Brandon is an active participant in the Manitowoc County Youth Apprenticeship Program. He continues to utilize many youth apprentices in his business, giving them the experience they need to pursue this vocation. He also regularly speaks at Career Fairs and other career-focused events.

In addition to his dedication to the Builder Associations, Brandon supports many local organizations by donating his (and staff) time and material to projects (most recently) for Painting Pathways, Town of Newton Park, Town of Newton Fire Department, a training facilities for the Manitowoc Fire and Police Departments, and many many more over the years. He was recognized by the local Chamber of Commerce's SAIL Young Professionals Network with the 40 Under 40 award in 2009 and Future 15 award in 2011 for his continuous commitment to the community and business growth.

And, finally, in his "spare" time he is a relentless supporter of his 3 children and their activities, with participation in the Manitowoc Ships Football Booster Club, Basketball Booster Club, Future Lady Ships program, Northeast Wisconsin Girls Basketball League, Newton Youth Sports, as well as a supportive fan of the high school gymnastics and track teams coached by his wife, Jacque.