

LESTER HOTTLE'S 25TH YEAR WITH S&D

In 2015, we rebranded our Planning Department at our Fabrication Shop in Landover, MD. Our BIM and CAD professionals will now be recognized as our Virtual Design and Construction department. VDC is the management of integrated multi-disciplinary performance models in design-construction projects. This includes the product, work processes and organization of the design and construction operation team to support project and company objectives as they relate to mechanical solutions. Shapiro & Duncan's 15 VDC professionals range from experienced field workers to students in and right out of college. This year, we want to place special recognition to VDC Coordinator III, Lester Hottle. **Lester, has been a dedicated employee for over 25 years!**

We asked Lester why Shapiro & Duncan?

"I love the people here. Many friendships were made. Shapiro & Duncan has always been a family oriented company. You feel like you're a part of something and are appreciated for what you do. They also provided me with all types of educational opportunities. They put me through my apprenticeship program for plumbing and I had people here who helped further my career path in VDC."



Lester started his journey in the construction industry right out of high school. He knew college wasn't for him, so he explored careers that he knew would pay well, and would have the opportunity to advance. He knew construction would not be a dead end career. Through the years, Lester has seen the company grow from 30 employees to 350+ employees, and has been a huge part in contributing to the growth of incorporating prefabrication and BIM on every project. Here is what his co-workers have to say about him:

"For those of you who do not know Lester, he appreciates a good practical joke. One of my favorite memories working together was the time he found some Halloween costume makeup on the job site without my knowledge. He discreetly applied it to his arm giving the appearance of a major gash. From what I can recall, it looked real. Together we went to the safety director to request assistance in applying first aid. His eyes opened wide, and in a panic tone he told Lester to keep it covered, apply pressure and he would call 911. The look on his face was priceless when Lester uncovered the truth. Not even a month later the Safety Director got even with a fake safety report stating the owner wanted S&D removed from the project. Not only did we work in the field together, but now in the VDC department. When he is not making me laugh, he is someone who I have counted on countless times and has never let me down. I think of him as a leader, and he has earned my respect and friendship through the years."

- Marty Fisher, **VDC Supervisor**

"If I had to describe Lester in three words they would be reliable, dedicated, and unforgettable. I've been working with him for over 15 years now and we have some incredible memories that we will talk about for years to come. He is very knowledgeable and gets the job done, but at the same time reminds you to have fun. Lester worked his way up through the field rankings and was a Field Foreman for 15+ years before he got the opportunity to come into the Virtual Design and Construction department. His dedication to the company and to our department has helped get us to where we are today."

- Chris Canter, **VDC Manager**