

## **TIM CELEBRATES 10 YEARS WITH FDS!**

**Tim shared some thoughts about his last 10 years at FDS:**

"I was looking for a company that had better leadership from top down and who respected their employees. I felt that FDS had the right people and the right environment."

Some of his favorite things we do here are the pumpkin carving contest and surprise treats in the kitchen! He also loves it when he gets to visit a project he completed.

The reason he has stayed here for so long? FDS has helped him to cultivate his connections with local community nonprofits such as the Montgomery Museum, has helped get him involved in local projects within the NRV that he can help build and enjoy, and provides a work environment where everyone endeavors to help each other out. The best thing about FDS is the people!



## **SHAWN CELEBRATES 10 YEARS WITH FDS!**

**Shawn shared his thoughts about his last 10 years at FDS:**

Shawn's favorite days here are the ones where we have the whole office together doing something.

The reason he has stayed here for so long? FDS is the best. We care about our people. We're family. The family you like to be around. FDS has supported me and made sure I had what I needed to make it through some tough times. You can't say that about a lot of places or people for that matter. The Fast and the Furious don't have anything on this family.





## ***CONGRATS TO VAN HOFMANN!***

Big congratulations to Van Hofmann for passing his NCEES Certified Survey Technician (CST) exam!

We are proud of Van and appreciate all his hard work and efforts involved with achieving this milestone - he is our first employee to earn that honor. This is an exam administered by the National Council of Engineering Examiners. This exam covers many subjects surveyors in Virginia are never exposed to, like the U.S. Public Lands System in place in large areas of the U.S. outside the original "Colonial State", whose land systems we go by, and questions that are intentionally subjective and really are designed to test the applicant's judgement skills.

# ***IMPORTANT DATES***

**4/3-5**

VAS Convention

**4/6**

NRV Cares Silent Auction

**4/8**

Solar Eclipse Viewing Party 3:15pm

**4/17**

Working Genius Lunch and Learn 12pm

**4/18**

Dare to Care Street Cleanup

**4/19**

Final Biggest Loser Weigh-In

**4/26**

Ralph's Retirement Party

# **ZEKE COMPLETES LEADERSHIP NRV**



In 2023, I was fortunate to participate in the Leadership NRV program hosted by the Montgomery County Chamber of Commerce. This is a yearly program where, over the course of approximately 10 months, you learn about the community, participate in projects, develop leadership skills, and attend after hours networking events. My classmates included realtors, bankers, police officers, local government workers, and small business owners. We met one full day every month to discuss different aspects and needs of our community, including public safety, healthcare, tourism, housing, the arts, history, etc.

These sessions took place at different businesses and locations across the New River Valley, and we heard from a diverse group of speakers. Throughout, we were asked to relate what we were learning to the required readings for the class: *Switch: How to Change Things When Change is Hard* by Chip & Dan Heath, as well as *Building a Vibrant Community: How citizen-powered change is reshaping America* by Quint Studer. (Come see me if you'd like to borrow either of these books!). In addition to attending class sessions, we were given a "Legacy Project" in which we would be partnered with a local nonprofit or service organization to develop strategies for meeting their mission goals. For my class we worked with Wonder Universe, a nonprofit children's museum located in the New River Valley Mall, that offers exhibits sponsored by local businesses and organizations. We divided ourselves into groups, and I served on the project management team. Over the course of the leadership program, we developed a comprehensive targeted business plan for Wonder Universe that detailed strategies for organization, marketing, growth, funding, and sustainability. It was a very cool opportunity to help such an amazing nonprofit. Leadership NRV was an extremely rewarding experience. There was so much that I learned about our community, and I got to meet many amazing business leaders.

Each year FDS sends an employee through this program. Kate is our 2024 participant.



## **HUNTER AND THE NRV EXPERIENCE**

Hunter attended the NRV Experience Internship Program, an 8-week long summer curriculum that allows interns the opportunity to see the New River Valley. Onward New River Valley is in charge of this experience and they did a great job of showing what the NRV has to offer. It was a great experience. I was able to meet so many different and interesting people. For a bit of background on the NRV Experience, each week we did an excursion in a different part of the New River Valley.

Before the main activity of the day, we had an hour of professional development led by Onward and local leaders. These sessions were always beneficial, and they usually gave insight into the area that we were visiting. The main activities had a wide range, with a lot of them being things I had never tried before. One of the pictures I've included is from the excursion we did in Floyd County at the Center for the Arts. This activity involved Clay Wheel Throwing. I've never done anything like this, so it was exciting to learn something new. I will point out that I wasn't very good at it. We were given three clay balls, and I used all three and had nothing to show for it (my result looked kind of like a blob fish). The best part of this excursion wasn't the actual activity, but the people I met. All of us around the table were struggling hard and I learned quick that it's fun relating to each other at how bad we were. You'll see in the photos three of the friends that I've made (Kai, Noah, and Ari). We made a collective effort to have a good time at the excursions and spent most of the time laughing. Through the experience I learned about the NRV, gained professional skills, made multiple friends, and laughed a lot. It was beneficial and I'm happy FDS chose to put me into the program.



## ***FDS WINS COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD***

Foresight Design was honored to receive the New River Valley Home Builders Association Community Impact Award at the annual Gala in February.

Foresight Design is happy to give back by donating our time and money to various worthy causes. We encourage all our employees to get involved and serve our local community.

Stephanie accepted the award on behalf of the company.

## ***WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE***

Sarah, Kate & Larissa attended the Montgomery County VA Chamber of Commerce's Women's Leadership Conference in March. This annual event focuses on women in business in the New River Valley. This is a wonderful networking and continuing education event. The keynote speaker, Jennifer Huffman from Atlantic Union Bank brought a lot of energy this year!

Thanks to the Chamber for hosting this event! We look forward to attending each year.



## ***NRVHBA HOME EXPO***

Thank you to Stephanie, Shawn, Zeke, Tim, CJ, Trevor and Jordan for helping make our booth at the Home Expo a success this year! We had a great turnout and spoke to lots of people.



# RALPH JUDGES ASCE COMPETITION

Ralph Clements was a judge for the surveying events at the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Virginias Student Symposium which was hosted by Virginia Tech and held at Claytor Lake the weekend of March 29-31. Eleven Universities and one high school competed in the 3-day event.



Top left picture is Matt Mosteller (former Survey Project Manager at FDS) and Ralph who were both judges at the competition. Ralph was voted "Head Judge". The third survey judge was Chris Pappas of Green Forest Surveys.

Bottom left picture is the Marshall University team setting up their survey instrument.

# EASTER EGG HUNT AT FDS

The Easter Bunny visited a little early here at Foresight Design! She brought lots of goodies to everyone - from candy to cash and gift cards!

There were even 2 golden eggs that had special prizes! Congrats to Larissa and CJ for finding those!

Can you guess who the Easter Bunny is?



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

<b>Eli</b>	<b>1/1</b>	<b>Sarah</b>	<b>2/26</b>
<b>Jordan</b>	<b>1/3</b>	<b>Hunter</b>	<b>3/14</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>1/24</b>		
<b>Tim</b>	<b>2/14</b>		



# FDS ANNIVERSARIES

<b>Jordan</b>	<b>1/16</b>	<b>2 Years</b>
<b>Ty</b>	<b>1/16</b>	<b>1 Year</b>
<b>Hunter</b>	<b>1/24</b>	<b>1 Year</b>
<b>Sarah</b>	<b>1/31</b>	<b>19 Years</b>
<b>Larissa</b>	<b>2/4</b>	<b>2 Years</b>
<b>Kevin</b>	<b>2/25</b>	<b>24 Years</b>
<b>John</b>	<b>3/8</b>	<b>25 Years</b>
<b>Zeke</b>	<b>4/2</b>	<b>6 Years</b>

