

## Construction/ Engineering/Real Estate

Eckman Construction uses many materials in its projects, but it's Granite to the core. The Bedford-based construction firm, founded by NH residents Hal and Amy Eckman in 1974 as a residential homebuilder, has flourished into a leading commercial construction company.

Now run by President and CEO Mark Walsh, Eckman Construction's projects range from schools, universities and medical facilities to senior living centers, municipal and multi-family housing. And 90 percent of the firm's work is in NH. "We would love to keep our plate full with New Hampshire projects," Walsh says.

Eckman is completing its 15th building project for St. Anselm College in Goffstown. It also built the Elliot at River's Edge Ambulatory Care Center with Suffolk Construction, and Elliot Hospital has continued to hire Eckman for other projects. Working with the same clients over many years is indicative of how well the company treats its customers. Take school construction, for example. Eckman is approaching its 60th school project, and the company takes pride in never having to ask a town or school board for more funds on a project.

While a small business with about 35 employees, Eckman takes on high profile projects. In 2016, it wrapped up a \$28 million Regional Training Institute for the NH Army National Guard, which was LEED Silver-Certified (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design), and the NH Job Corps Center, which won the Chairman's Award from the Associated Builders and Contractors NH/VT chapter. The award is bestowed to "the best of the best," as determined by peers. "Our niche has been more complex projects," Walsh says, noting Eckman's supervisors are engineers who seek challenges.

The company also gives back to the community whether it is volunteering for Building on Hope, which helps not-for-profits with building projects, making donations to a variety of organizations or its staff serving on boards. One project manager serves on the board of Camp Allen in Bedford, the accounting manager serves as treasurer for a nationwide adult literacy organization, the office manager is president of a national dog rescue organization, and the vice president serves as vice chair for the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce.

These are just some of the reasons Eckman has endured economic cycles that have wiped out other construction firms over the years. "We've come out of those stronger each time," Walsh says. And its legacy as a family-owned business endures as Walsh's son, Matthew, is now project manager. "I'm more interested than ever to create a platform that will endure," Mark Walsh says. ■



# Eckman Construction Company Inc.

Mark Walsh, President and CEO

CHRISTINE CARGNON