

Tell us a little bit about your background and how you got involved with the Education Foundation.

I am a CPA and a partner with Moss Adams. I have spent my entire career in public accounting focused on the construction industry and am currently the National Practice Leader for Moss Adams Construction Industry Group. Initially, I got involved with the Foundation because of Chris Clark. One day Chris called and said, "We need to talk." I agreed and found our talk had very little to do with W.G. Clark and everything to do with the Education Foundation. The Education Foundation needed a treasurer for the Executive Committee and he asked me to fill that role. That was in 2001 and I have been involved ever since.



Elaine Ervin, Moss Adams LLP,
Partner and firm
Construction Leader,
President of the AGC EF
Board of Trustees

Beyond Chris Clark, was there something about the mission of the Foundation that attracted you to getting involved?

I am passionate about education. My volunteer efforts typically focus on education. What appealed to me about the Foundation was not only the education component, but also the service to all facets of the industry in which I have spent nearly my entire professional career working.

"My return on investment is the success of the Foundation and the fact that we have an impact on students and professionals in a positive way allowing them opportunities to advance in their careers. This is huge."

Why did you give your first gift to the Foundation?

It goes back to my desire to support the education of our youth and helping them discover their talents and future career options. It was easy to give. The Education Foundation provides our youth the opportunity to gain an understanding of the construction industry, to receive an education so they can pursue a career in the industry, and then provides continuing education throughout their career. It is really fun to see individuals discover their future and grow within their careers. I'm a little jealous to be honest. There is a good reason why I am a CPA...I can't build anything. The fact that contractors can take something from plans, build it, and it doesn't topple over is impressive. This allows me to support an industry that I find fascinating.

In your opinion, what's the most important work that the Foundation does?

This is easy. The mission of the Foundation is to be the premier education resource for the construction industry. In order to do so, the Foundation team needs to understand the industry and its needs. And, they do. They actively develop relationships, listen to needs, and respond with appropriate programs. Their success is seen in the scholarships and grants provided, the development of the mentor program, the development of classes such as the Lean Construction Certification Program, and the many other programs offered.

Do you have an anecdote about the Foundation or one of its programs that really has moved you?

At the Celebration of Generosity, I enjoyed watching the scholarship and grant recipients mingle with the donors. We have touched their lives, both recipients and givers. There is nothing more satisfying than their sincerity and appreciation. One of my favorite moments was when I was talking to one of the GLY scholarship recipients, and he said, "Did you know that guy over there is the 'L' in GLY? How cool is that?" He was wide eyed as he knew that he had been talking to an industry icon. I hope the donors know what an incredible impact they have made.

As a donor, what do you see as your return on investment when selecting the Foundation as part of your charitable giving?

My return on investment, quite honestly, is the success of the Foundation and the fact that we have an impact on students and professionals in a positive way allowing them opportunities to advance in their careers. This is huge. What is even more exciting is when those that benefited from the Foundation believe in the mission and in turn provide support for others. Very gratifying! 📌