

Roofing Notre Dame

A University Creates Jobs for Local Building Trades Members

The University of Notre Dame is famous for many things, including “Fighting Irish” athletics, an academic program that rivals the Ivy Leagues, and a campus that showcases historic buildings in peaceful, natural surroundings. For students, these assets all contribute to the holistic educational experience of attending Notre Dame.

But Notre Dame’s mission is not bound by the walls of academia. Its influence reaches far beyond campus to affect the people of the state of Indiana and particularly the local citizens in its hometown of South Bend, IN. It does this through its volunteer coordination, job creation and its fiscal impact on the local economy.

“Notre Dame is a major contributor to the economic vitality of the city of South Bend,” according to the latest economic report commissioned by the University. The report estimates that Notre Dame “directly and indirectly accounts for about 12,380 jobs and \$873 million in economic activity in St. Joseph County.”

Much of that economic activity centers around the physical campus itself—in its construction and

upkeep. Perhaps as a nod to its Catholic heritage and its mission of “a sense of human solidarity and concern for the common good,” Notre Dame is an all-union campus. All construction and maintenance on campus is done through an agreement with the local building trades unions. For Roofers and Waterproofers Local 23 in South Bend, this agreement has kept many of its members working, even as much of the state is suffering the aftermath of the Great Recession.

“They Work Really Well with Us”

Local 23 Business Manager Layne Marshall lauds the partnership that has developed over the years between the University and the building trades. “They work really well with us,” he says, noting that even though state legislators have been attacking union labor recently, Notre Dame remains as supportive as ever.

The reasons for this are clear. For one thing, the union agreement means Notre Dame has immediate access to skilled

workers for projects of all sizes. For a campus that has nearly \$400 million of campus development projects in progress or on the horizon, it’s crucial that all jobs are completed on time and interfere as little as possible with the students’ campus experience.

The most obvious reason for using union labor, however, is the level of skill that simply cannot be found elsewhere. The campus maintains a cohesive feel—the result of a strict code of historic preservation. For roofers, this means most buildings are topped with slate. Local 23 has many members who have been specially trained in slate and can skillfully and reliably provide all the construction and maintenance needs on campus.

“Our slate guys are some of the best in the industry,” says Brother Marshall. “They put a lot of pride in their work.” Go to any spot on campus and simply look up to witness the pride and craftsmanship these roofers have put into their work. (All photos in this article are of buildings roofed by Local 23 members.) **■**



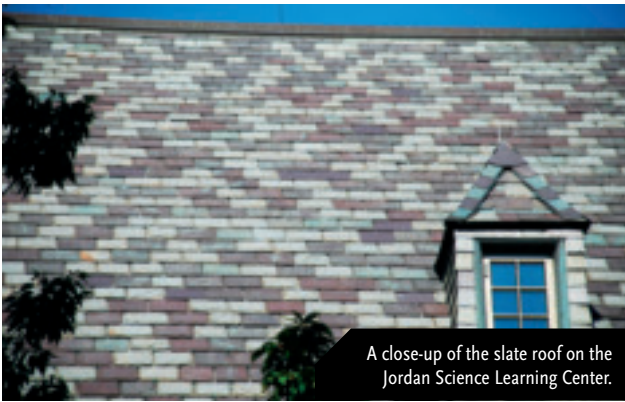
Slate turrets on Sorin College.



Pasquerilla Center (ROTC)



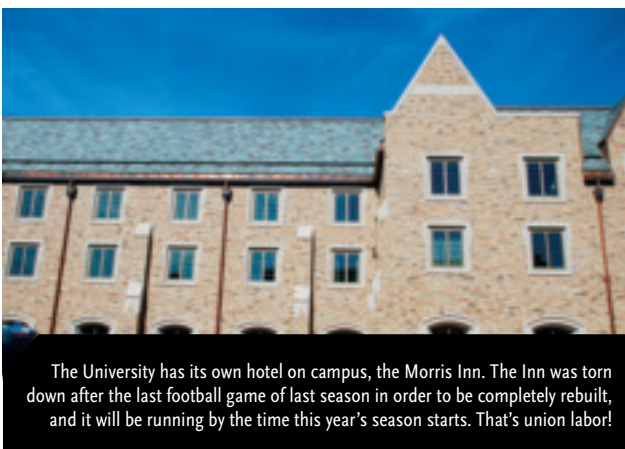
Local 23 replaced the roof on Lyons Hall this year.



A close-up of the slate roof on the Jordan Science Learning Center.



Guglielmino Athletics Complex



The University has its own hotel on campus, the Morris Inn. The Inn was torn down after the last football game of last season in order to be completely rebuilt, and it will be running by the time this year's season starts. That's union labor!



Foreman Joel Stockbridge, right, along with Larry Hernandez and Joe Tribbey put down new insulation, DensDeck and fully adhered FiberTite on Sorin College, a residence hall built in 1888.



The finished north dome on the Joyce Center.

ON THE COVER:

Purcell Pavilion

One of the few non-slate-roofed buildings on Notre Dame's 1,250-acre campus is the two-domed Joyce Center, which was renovated in 2009 to create a more-intimate and better-lit arena inside. The resulting Purcell Pavilion, or the "south dome," houses the university's nationally ranked basketball and volleyball teams. The fieldhouse in the north dome features 84,000 square feet of exhibition space.

Local 23 Roofers were responsible for replacing the roof system on the structure's two domes. The job consisted of a tear-off of the old J.P. Stevens EP system and removal of the insulation down to the substrate. They then installed 2½" of ISO insulation followed by DensDeck. The roof was finished with fully adhered FiberTite with all seams heat welded. ■

Future Growth Shows No Signs of Slowing

Each spring Notre Dame holds a luncheon for representatives from the local building trades. During this meeting, University officials discuss upcoming plans and the scope of work for the next five to ten years, as well as discuss any issues with current projects. This keeps communication open and dialogue flowing—labor and management working together.

It also gives the unions an idea of how much work is on the horizon. Already in planning stages are another four residence halls and a museum. But there seems to be no limit on what's in store for the future of the campus, in terms of construction. According to Marshall, "Their 20-year plan is to triple the [square footage] of the campus." For Local 23 Roofers, that's a lot of steady work—and it's for a good owner. ■



The Local 23 roofing crew working on the dome on the Purcell Pavilion included Kalen Rush, Tyler Engler, Kent Henderson, Jeremy Clark, Ken Jones Jr., Steve Squint, Demetrice Johnson, Dave Judd Jr., Robert Christman, Ryan Mayfield, Art Shivers, Rich Taylor, Scott Kendall, Charles Cecil and foreman Kenny Jones Sr.