Making Your Customer the Hero:

How a construction software company increased revenue 53% by doing the opposite of what feels right

DAN BRISCOEVP of Marketing,
HCSS



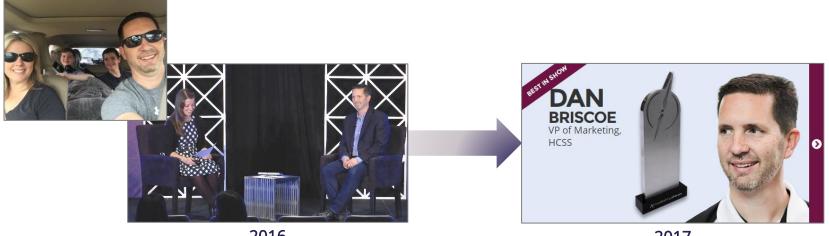
Dan Briscoe

VP of Marketing, HCSS

Dan's MarketingSherpa Journey

"In two years, I want to win Best-in-Show."

- Dan Briscoe, 2016



2016MarketingSherpa Summit attendee and speaker

2017 MarketingSherpa Summit Best-in-Show winner

Results — since January 2015

- 53.6% increase in annualized revenue since launch of campaigns in January 2015
- 187% increase in monthly web visits
- 198% increase in monthly social web traffic
- 300% increase in video views
- Doubled the size of our marketing team from 10-25 employees
- Received free PR valued at greater than \$300,000, including Fox TV news, Fortune Magazine, industry press and more









Results – since January 2015

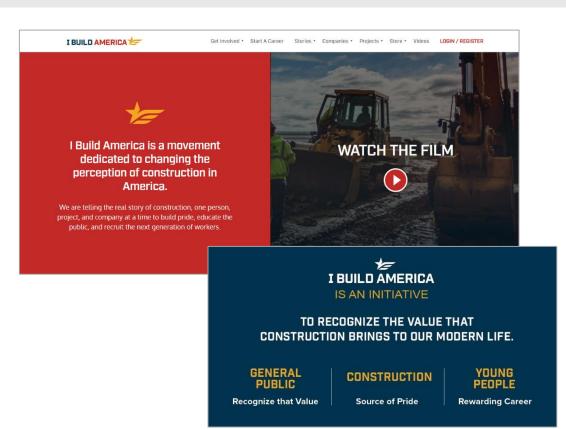
• 53.6% increase in annualized revenue



WORLD

"Simply put, we got over ourselves"

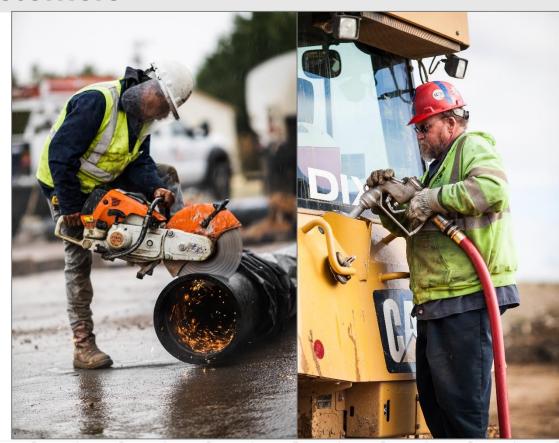
- Quit the sales and marketing obsession to focus only on our company
- Quit trying to show how innovative our products are and how beloved our customer support is
- Learned to make the customers the true hero of our stories
- Our customers now love us more and each quarter sets a new record in sales



How HCSS Serves its Customers

- Small (roughly 250 employees), private construction software company
- Helps construction companies streamline their operations
- 4,000 companies with 45,000 end-users in the U.S. and Canada
- Recognized by the Wall Street Journal as one of the "Top Small Workplaces in America"

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL



Challenges and Goals

Company Challenge

Competing against multi-billion dollar corporations, ERP and accounting vendors and venture-backed software companies for voice in industry



Customers in construction industry are struggling to find and retain good employees

Mutual Goal

Help construction improve its image and attract next generation of workers while simultaneously becoming a major voice in industry









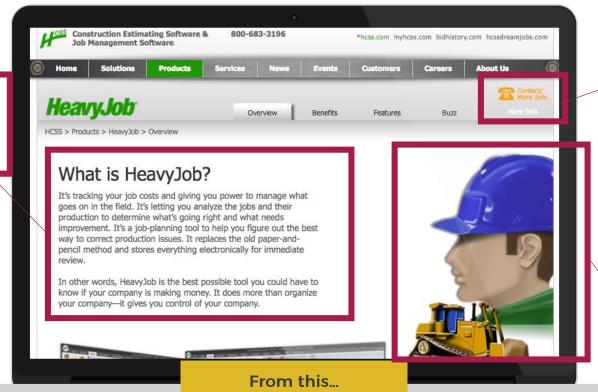


Build a Base of Success

Through marketing, sales and your customers

Marketing: HeavyJob product page – before

Very wordy-No place to view software



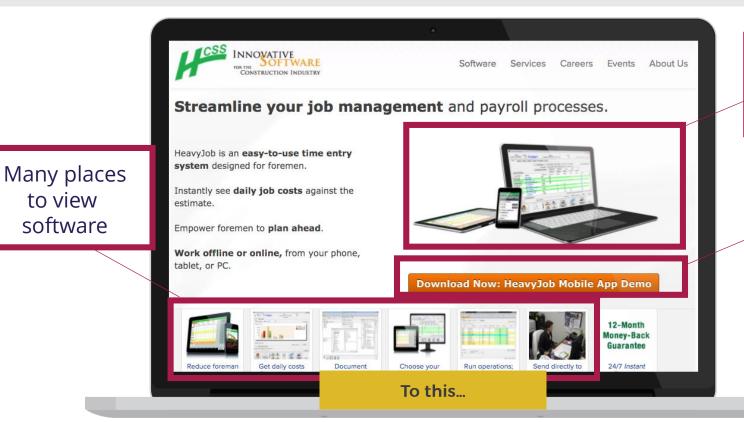
Only CTA on site

Clipart images

Marketing: HeavyJob product page — after

to view

software

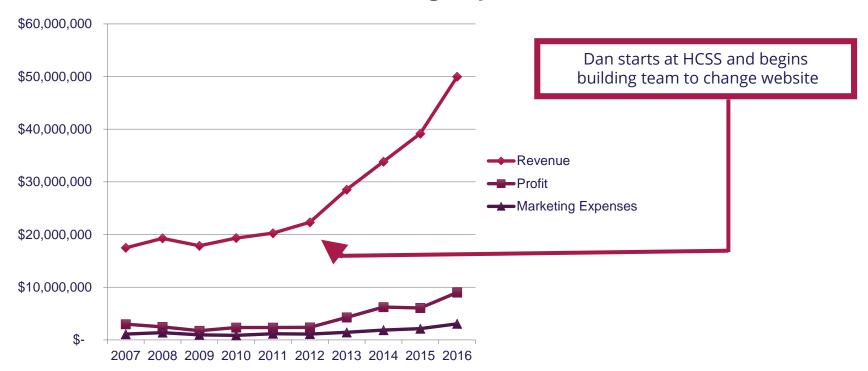


Real images of software

CTA with free trial download

Marketing: Results from website redesign & customer focus

Revenue & Profit vs. Marketing Expenses



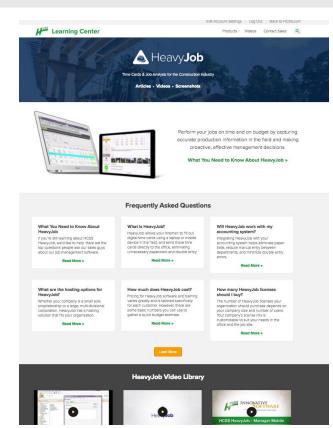
Sales: HCSS Learning Center

- A library of information answering every question a prospect would want answered
- Exists behind lead capture
- Sales and Marketing working together to create content
- Automates more of the selling process so Sales can be more helpful
- Also used internally to train new sales reps
- www.learn.hcss.com
 - Select Sherpa17 as role



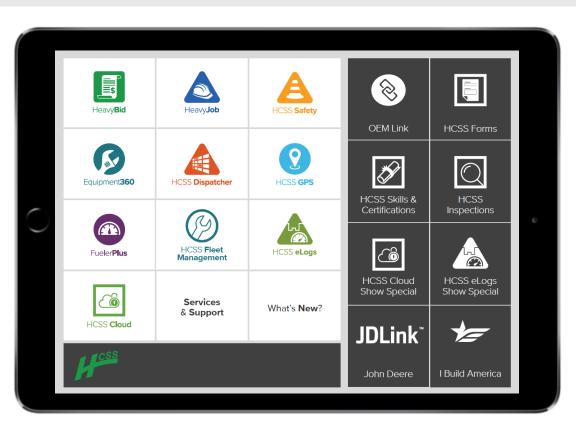
Sales: HCSS Learning Center results

- 30% increase in session duration
- 25% increase in returning visitor rate
- 467 new leads in month 1
- Sales team is now actively using the site to save time



Customers: Champion's slide deck / mobile app

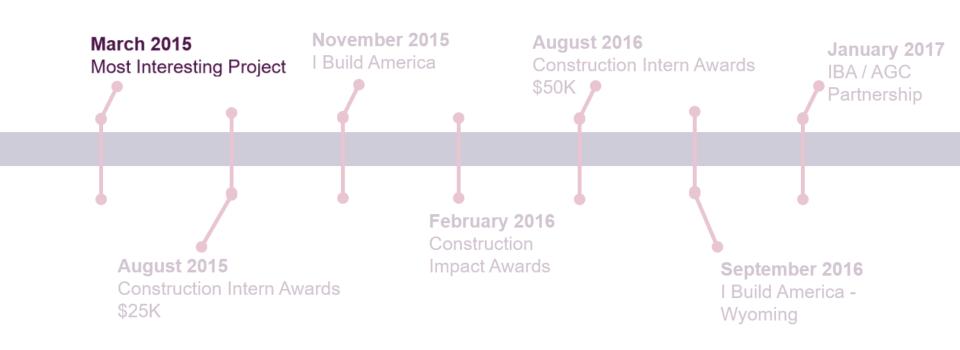
- Collaboration between Sales and Marketing
- Promotes cross-learning of all HCSS products
- Helps the customer champion sell internally to execs and other divisions
- Popular download offer and lead-nurturing asset
- <u>Dan.Briscoe@hcss.com</u> for access



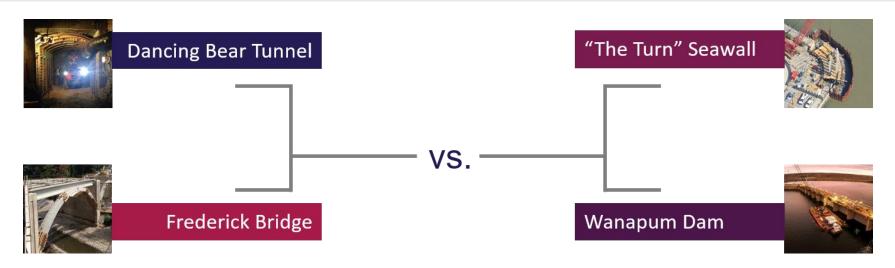
Start Small and Experiment

1 (2) (3) (4) (5)

Project Timeline



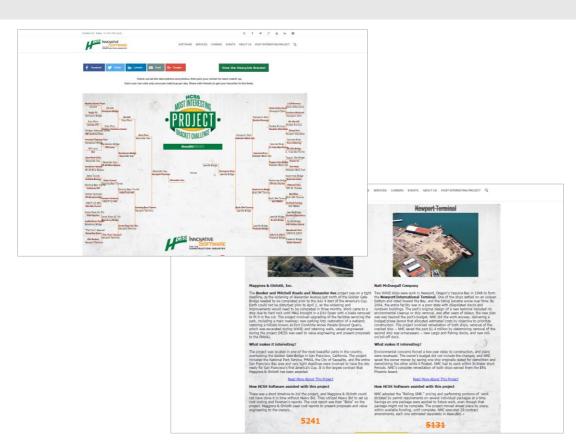
"The Most Interesting Project"



- A bracket-style tournament of customer-submitted projects
- Recognized that our customers are extremely passionate about their projects
- Presented a dozen brand awareness ideas to executives with this as our favorite; they chose it and provided the budget

Challenge Website

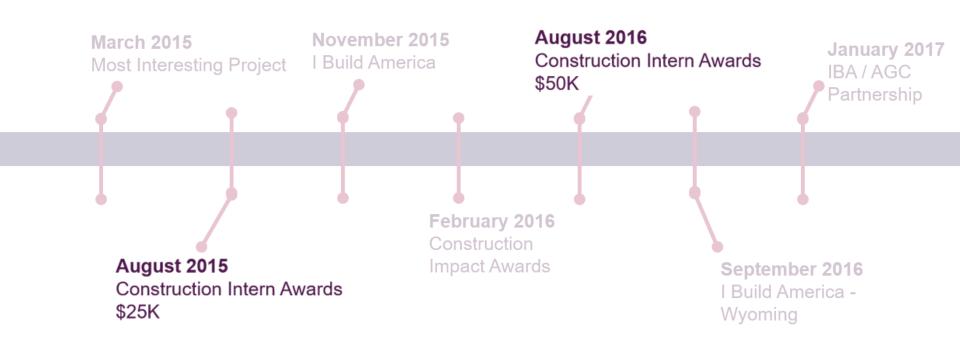
- Each person was allowed to vote once per day
- Each entry highlighted the project and mentioned HCSS support
- Helped us overcome the challenge of getting success stories from our customers
- A fun way to get user-generated content



"The Most Interesting Project" – results

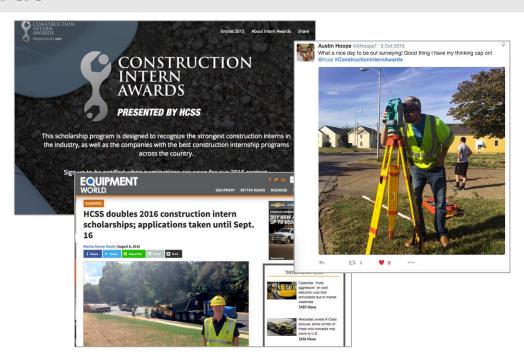


Project Timeline



Construction Intern Awards

- Awarding \$50K in scholarships to 17 interns
- Largest construction scholarship program in the country
- Goal was to reach a younger construction audience
- Leveraged social media to engage students
- Recruited a panel of 12 industry leaders as judges
- Earned free press mentions
- Achieved broad industry exposure to customers, associations and colleges







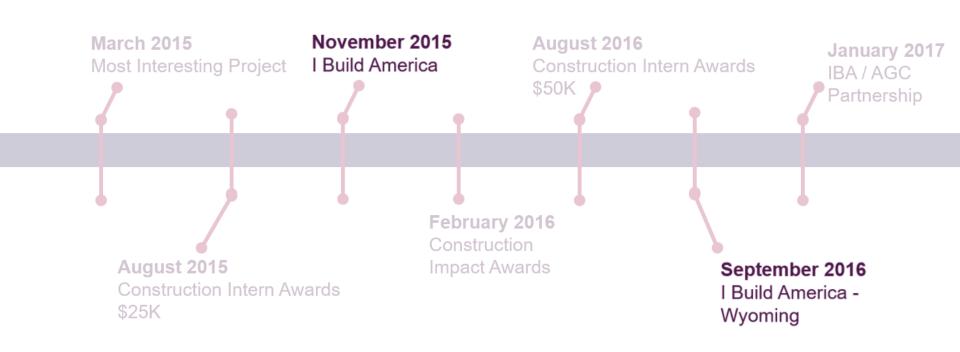


Results of Construction Intern Awards

- 900 registered
- 241 applications
- 55,000 votes
- 100,000 visitors
- 17 semi-finalists
- 25+ industry publication pick-ups
- 3x increase in web traffic during contest



Project Timeline



What is "I Build America"?

- A movement dedicated to changing the perception of construction in America
- A place to share stories and ideas that show the value of and pride in construction
- CEO/founder's idea as a way to give back to our industry
- Execs approved the budget as a non-profit venture
- Earned broad industry recognition - partnership with Association of General Contractors

HOW ARE WE BUILDING A MOVEMENT?

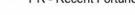


WEBSITE





VIDEOS



IMPACT AWARDS 2016





APPAREL

TURBO UTV



SOCIAL MEDIA

Along with the following

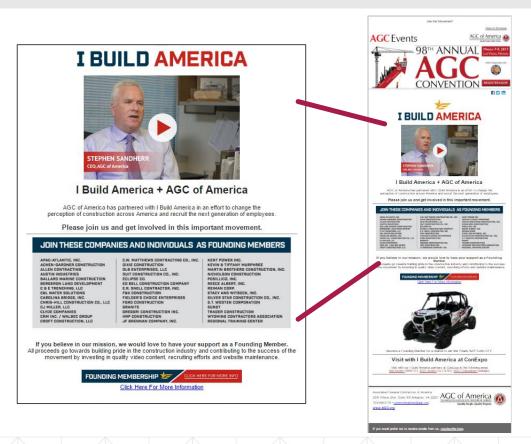
- Membership kits for individual & company
- Recruiting tool kits
- Time lapse videos / real time cameras at projects
- · PR Recent Fortune article



"I Build America" Partner Promotion

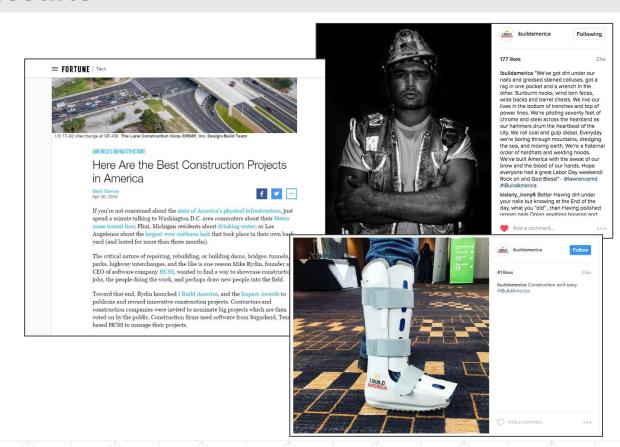
- Industry partner, Association of General Contractors (AGC), sent an email to its list of 30,000 member companies encouraging them to join "I Build America"
- "I Build America" featured in both AGC booths at the 2017 AGC Convention





"I Build America" Results

- 30K social network
- 130,000 web visitors
- Built pride in employees for what we do



"I Build America" Results

- Industry partnerships
- \$1,000 donations from 50 founding members
- State collaborations Wyoming, Texas, California
- IBA helps win over potential software customers because they believe in the movement and appreciate what we're doing

We talk about "I Build America" in many of our sales calls. It helps to build trust in our company and show that we care about the industry.

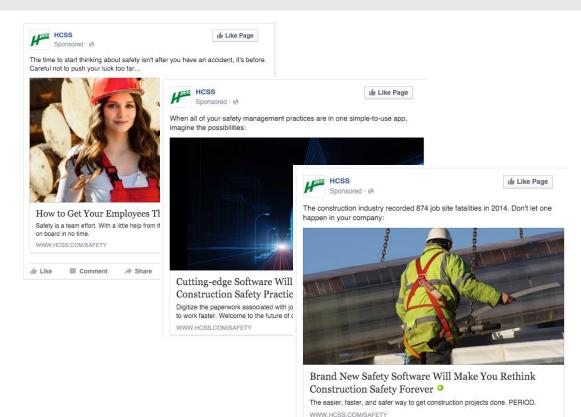
- Mark Reeves, Director of Sales, HCSS

Learn From Experiments That Fail

(and make the most out of them)

Facebook Lookalike Ads

- Goal was to increase awareness of our new safety software and drive leads
- Started with 24 experimental ads, optimized from there over 8 weeks
- Average cost per lead went from \$430 to \$262 but goal was \$200
- Sales had too many leads
- Our customers don't spend a great deal of time on Facebook...yet



Growing Campaign Awareness

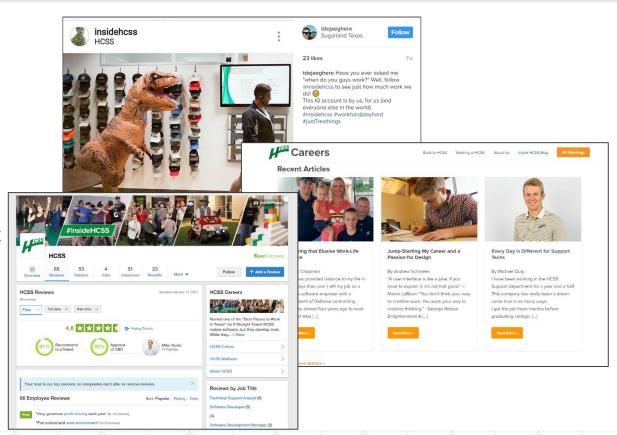
- Spent \$50K on a Polaris RZR 1000 Turbo
- Wanted a fun way to raise awareness
- Employees flipped it during company picnic
- Took up too much time on video shoots
- Giving it away as part of a fundraiser for "I Build America"



Power Your Growing Marketing Organization with a Strong Team

Hiring and Recruiting

- Strong internship program
 - Advisors at local college
 - Attend job fairs
- Have a backlog of people wanting to join the team
 - Company culture
 - Recruiting blog with employee-generated content
 - Improved Glassdoor page
 - #InsideHCSS



Marketing Team – 8 people

- Individual-based
- Agile marketing
- Met in scrums
- Everyone just pitched in wherever needed
- Pros
 - Small and nimble
 - Could accomplish any priority project
 - Fun
- Cons
 - Poor product marketing
 - Reactive
 - Difficult to scale

Marketing VP - Dan

- Marketing strategy
- Value propositions (ROI Calculators)
- Annual marketing plan
- Marketing ROI / analytics
- Sales marketing alignment
- Software sales

Marketing Manager - Kara

- Marketing team coaching
- UGM & ConExpo
- Marketing systems & automation
- Lead nurturingSalesforce admin
- Systems improvement
- Systems improvements
- Marketing qualified leads

Web Manager - Skyler

- Web team coaching
- Website strategy
- SEO & SEM
- A/B Testing / web CRO
 Interactive content
- Website visitors
- Demo conversion rates

Tradeshow & Events- [Open]

- Events Travel & logistics
- Event marketing & branding
- Marketing financials
- Marketing surveys
- Marketing admin / support
- Event leads
- Event cost per lead

Advertising & PR - Amy

- · Email marketing
- Advertising
- Public relations / reviews
- Sales campaigns
- Campaign opportunity \$
- Email to web traffice

Web Development - Daven

- Web development
- Mobile optimization
- Company web support
- Web standardization
- Web projects
- System improvements

Content Writer - Krysten

- · Content writing & editing
- Sales assistance & copywriting
- Publish quarterly newsletter
- Blog & social media
- Story collection
- Content published
- Sales aid:

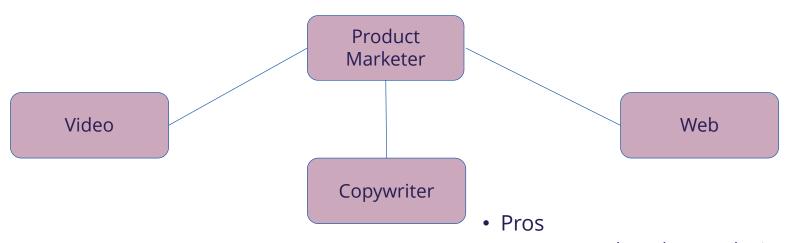
Digital Marketing - Jose

- · Video production & editing
- Photography
- HCSS YouTube channel
- Other digital media
- Purchasing
- Videos published
- Video views

Graphic Design - David

- Graphic design
- Photography
- Branding guidelines
- Office tour sales areas UGM, GPS
- Sales aids / advertising
- Pieces designed
- Photo shoots

Marketing Team – 25 people



- Product marketer owns project from awareness through closing
- Each product marketer has his/her own dedicated creative team for each project

- Improved product marketing
- Better focus on buyer personas
- Able to scale
- Cons
 - Tougher to manage marketing priorities across the department

To Learn About Building vs. Buying...

3:00 p.m. - 3:25 p.m. BREAKOUTS

Email & Mobile

How the World's Fastest-growing Watch Brand Used Email to Grow Revenue 98%

Blake Pinsker, Marketing & Brand Director, MVMT

General Session Room

Digital & Data

How a Canadian Automotive Maintenance Service Company Achieved Lift in Customer Engagement Metrics by Leveraging Data to Create a Personalized Experience

Andrea Shaikin, Former Director. Customer Experience & Engagement, Mr. Lube Canada

Content & Social

An Inside Look at Dell EMC's Framework for Scaling its Successful Content Strategies Across a Global Enterprise

Lindsay Lyons, Director, Global Content Strategy, Dell EMC

Best Practices

Build vs. Buy: A how-to session featuring a behind-the-scenes look at how Best-in-Show winner, HCSS, decides when to outsource and when to create from within

Kara MacDonald, Director of Marketing Operations, HCSS



Kara MacDonald
Director of Marketing Operations
HCSS

Prioritize the Most Effective Tactics

1 2 3 4

Prioritizing

- Prioritize projects based on:
 - Expected value and ROI
 - Expected exposure and PR
- Choose 4-5 major projects each year

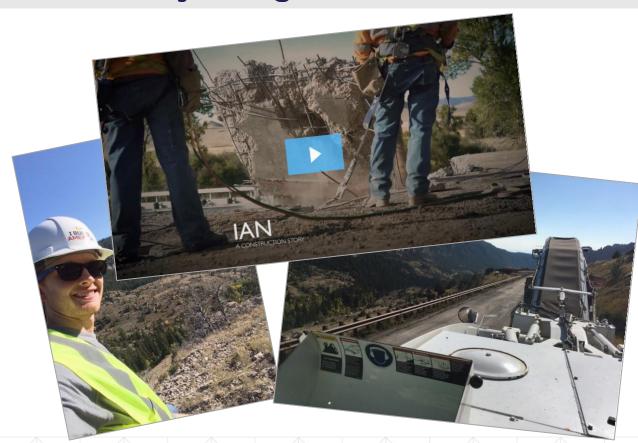






Collaboration with State of Wyoming

- Completed this project as a pilot project in a small, friendly state
- Cost \$50K but has jumpstarted "I Build America"
- Association of General Contractors signed on as official partners
- Founder really wanted to do it & Marketing also believed in the project



Optimization of University Program

- A project that was put off due to lack of bandwidth and resources
- A university program exists but it has not been optimized
- This is a project that will likely take higher priority in 2017 and 2018



Results – since January 2015

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Customer Appreciation

"I very much appreciate the work you put in to make it possible for me to enter. 'I Build America' is the reason that **HCSS** stands **head and shoulders above every other tech software company** in the world: **total devotion to the success of your clients**. You have earned my respect!" Warmest regards, *Frank Chandler, VP Construction Division, GMC Contracting*

"A **very impressive** project. This is what 'I Build America' is about. The roads and bridges are what people see, but this is the type of project that America doesn't think about that really has an effect on the people. The **impact is enormous** yet goes unseen." *David Luytjes, VP of Estimating, Texas Sterling Construction Company*

"My initial impression is that this is a **very impressive** group of [interns]. Could you give me some background on the contest: how long you've been doing it? What your goals are for it? I'm thinking about **doing an editorial** on what I'm seeing here." *Marcia Gruver Doyle, Editorial Director, Construction Media, Randall-Reilly*

Top Takeaways

- Make your customer the hero of the story
- Show, don't tell
- Experiment to overcome internal blindspots; invest where you find success
- Consider starting a movement
- Leverage user-generated content
- Consider hiring in-house vs. an agency approach

Roundtable Discussions

How to Get Your Sales Team to Co-own the Content Strategy

Roundtable

18



DAN BRISCOE
VP of Marketing,
HCSS

Sales and Data: Which comes first?

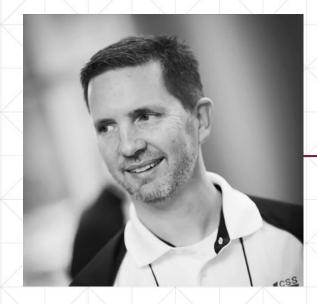
Roundtable

20



KARA MACDONALD
Director of Marketing Operations,
HCSS





Thank You!

Dan Briscoe, HCSS @dfbriscoe