

# THE BURN

Fall 2025 Wrap Up

## 35 Years Strong: Deep Roots, Bold Innovations



**Charbel Tagher**

President

This has been another excellent year for STI - our best one, in fact. Nothing comes easily, but with continued commitment and daily hard work, we're proud to have been able to serve more customers, to keep coming up with innovative solutions that make construction a little safer, and to continue to grow profitably. We're also very grateful for the trust that more and more people are putting into us. It's the result of excellent work by, and coordination between, our Operations, Engineering, Marketing and Sales departments. Thank you, Team STI, for your dedication and commitment!

A few years ago, the CEO of a huge competitor asked me: why are your customers so attached to you? Why is it so hard to flip them? The answer is simple: We consider them relationships, not transactions, and offer them the best installed cost, not just a lower price. And we're there for them, because we keep our people for a long time.

The little seed we planted 35 years ago is now a big, beautiful tree with deep roots and big branches. The deep roots result from the commitment we have to our industry and our people. There simply is no other company that focuses on firestopping the way we do. This has allowed us to create knowledge that is unique; innovate, create new segments, continuously advance the level of safety in the construction industry over the years; build a network of distributors that is unmatched; and armed with all this, deliver superior value that has resulted in deep relationships with our customers.

The tree has long, leafy and flowery branches because we have protected the jobs of those who do theirs. In 35 years, we have not had a single layoff. It's not just because it's the right thing to do. It's because it gives us a huge advantage over companies that treat their people as dispensable and put the burden on their customers to constantly train new recruits. Experience comes with time and provides insights. In turn, this produces innovation and practical solutions. And that combination is what makes that tree so beautiful.

In an industry where STI has become the main source of knowledge and innovation, why wouldn't we move heaven and earth to keep the people our customers know and value?

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## 35 Years Strong: Deep Roots, Bold Innovations

(continued)

This year again we introduced many innovative solutions. To name just a few:

- We dramatically improved the power and functionality of our digital tools and made them sync nicely and easily together.
- We introduced the first large (16" and 18") factory-built collars for plastic pipes. They are truly a work of art that ensures a safer solution at a better installed cost.
- For Curtain Wall applications, we offer custom made mullion plugs that stop smoke and fire from traveling inside the mullions.
- Our 6" Cast-In Device and its reinforcing steel plate are a game changer for corrugated deck applications that allow a strong and fast solution at a lower installed cost than what's available now.
- A magnificent double-sized EZ Path® called Series 84 that has the largest capacity of any continually compliant cabling fire-rated solution on the market.
- Please go here to check it all out: [www.stifirestop.com](http://www.stifirestop.com).

In 2025, STI trained over 28,000 professionals through a combination of live training sessions at our facilities, on-site field training, live webinars, and on-demand education through Firestop University, with year-end participation still climbing. As an approved education provider for AIA, BICSI, ICC, and other professional organizations, our programs support required continuing education while delivering practical, code-aligned instruction. Training topics ranged from compliance in healthcare facilities and mass timber construction firestopping to interior finish firestopping, perimeter fire containment systems, IT infrastructure firestopping, restoring STC through proper firestopping, understanding firestop engineering judgments, and multiple offerings of our FIT Level 2 program, along with our industry Summits and Symposiums.

In total, we delivered in-depth education across more than 24 unique subject areas, with all courses carrying applicable CEUs. We were privileged to train contractors, distributors, facility managers, engineers, architects, inspectors, and sales professionals—reinforcing STI's commitment to education as a cornerstone of life safety and code compliance.

Yes, 2025, our 35th year in business, has truly been a memorable one. Once more, I can't thank enough our customers, the AEC community that specs us, the thousands of people that support us at our distributor and representation partners, and last but not least, the STI team.

In closing, let me wish you and your loved ones a great holiday season, and a healthy, successful, and happy 2026.



## Innovation Spotlight: STI Delivers Two Breakthrough Firestop Solutions

Specified Technologies Inc. Product Management

### EZ Path® Series 84+ Fire-Rated Pathway

Specified Technologies Inc. continues to push the boundaries of firestopping innovation with two recent product launches designed to meet the demands of today's complex infrastructure projects. First, the [EZ Path® Series 84+ Fire-Rated Pathway](#) sets a new standard for high-capacity cable management. Built for hyperscale data centers and large commercial environments, it offers the industry's highest capacity in a fire-rated pathway, automatic self-sealing from 0–100% cable fill, and modular flexibility through cross-series compatibility with the [EZ Path® Series 44+](#). Adjustable multi-gang brackets and an optimized footprint make installation efficient while ensuring compliance without ongoing maintenance.



### SpecSeal® EXC Firestop Collar

Soon after, STI also introduced the [SpecSeal® EXC Firestop Collar](#), the first fully assembled solution for 16" (406 mm) and 18" (457 mm) nonmetallic pipes. Engineered for large-diameter applications, the EXC Collar simplifies installation by eliminating on-site measuring and assembly. Its precisely metered intumescent wrap expands up to 60 times during a fire, sealing openings to block fire, smoke, and hot gases. The EXC Collar is UL Certified and tested to ASTM E814 (UL1479) and CAN/ULC-S115 (for closed pipe systems exclusively in Canada), approved for use with Schedule 40 PVC and CPVC pipes penetrating concrete walls/floors and concrete block wall assemblies. Additional testing is underway to expand approvals for drain, waste, and venting pipe installations in Canada under CAN/ULC-S115.



### Why These Launches Matter

Both products reflect STI's commitment to innovation, compliance, and efficiency. They address the evolving needs of digital infrastructure and large-scale construction while reducing risk and simplifying installation for contractors. These solutions aren't just new products; they're strategic answers to the challenges shaping our industry today.

## Looking Back on 2025 While Driving Ahead



**Justin Pine**

Senior Manager, Software & Services

As the curtain closes on 2025, the Digital Solutions team is not just looking back – we’re celebrating a year of major releases and growth. The team has built upon the solid foundations we laid in 2024 and continues to implement new industry leading features and improvements. We kicked off 2024 with a new corporate website and we are ending 2025 with two new regional sites for Canada and Brazil. These new properties bring forward the visuals and rich content from our corporate site along with localized on page content. With the Canadian site ([www.stifirestop.ca](http://www.stifirestop.ca)) available in English and French Canadian and our Brazil site ([www.stifirestop.com.br](http://www.stifirestop.com.br)) in English and Brazilian Portuguese, you can expect additional regional sites to go live in 2026 focusing on the unique needs that each site serves.

Shifting gears from our web properties over to our digital apps, the team has been hard at work on new features and enhancements to our specification, design, and implementation tools. You may have seen some of the updates in the wild already, but the biggest changes have been behind the scenes preparing for our next major software release. For 2026 we are taking our interoperability of digital tools to the next level with the release of STI’s Firestop SYNC. A new solution that bridges the divide between all project stakeholders ensuring life safety compliance across all phases of the construction process. Firestop SYNC combines the standardization of our Barrier Management Plan (BMP), with the design and specification capabilities of Firestop Clash Management (FCM), along with Firestop Locator’s (FSL) implementation and documentation functions into one cohesive workflow. This empowers owners, architects, engineers, and contractors to Implement a Standard, Design to that Standard, and Build to the Designed Standard.

While our teams have been laying the virtual foundations for Firestop SYNC, we haven’t slowed down on releasing new updates to the applications that you’re already familiar with. Firestop Locator (FSL) and Firestop Clash Management (FCM) learned to talk together in 2024, gaining the ability for FCM projects to push data into FSL giving implementation teams a leg up on managing firestop systems during construction and into occupation. This year FCM gained the ability to generate maps of head-of-wall conditions within Revit, overlaying joint ratings and systems using a combination of user defined colors and shapes. Closing out 2025, FCM will be receiving another major update just in time for the holidays, introducing “0 Hour” rating and the ability to pre-map firestop conditions to already approved firestop systems along with other improvements ([Learn more about this update here](#)).

While FCM developed new features, the dev team focused our FSL development on performance improvements and under the hood changes. Laying the groundwork for a new synchronization system that will improve the project syncing process, vastly improving stability while increasing transfer speeds. This new update is planned for release in late January of 2026 so stay tuned to STI’s social media to be alerted when this update goes live.

2025 has been another packed year of updates and new releases on the digital front with 2026 gearing up to be even more feature rich. Stay tuned to STI’s social media to be one of the first to know when STI’s Firestop SYNC is released or for updates on any of our other applications.



## Building Knowledge, Building Safety: 35 Years of Advancing Firestop Training



**John Zalepka**

Director of Training & Industry Engagements

As Specified Technologies Inc. celebrates its 35th anniversary, it's impossible to tell our story without reflecting on the role that training has played in shaping not just STI, but the firestop industry. While I've only been directly involved with STI's training efforts for the past six years, I've had a front-row seat to how far we've come. What began as a technical resource to help customers properly install firestop systems has grown into a globally recognized standard of excellence in education, specification support, and code compliance.

For more than 25 years, Firestop Instructional Training (FIT) has been a cornerstone of STI's commitment to life-safety. Our FIT program was one of the first structured, accredited firestop education offerings in the industry, establishing a benchmark that architects, contractors, inspectors, and facility professionals continue to rely on today. Particularly in healthcare, FIT has become the standard referenced in specifications around the world, ensuring that barrier management programs (BMP) and life-safety systems are properly understood and implemented.

As building codes, standards, and materials have evolved, from the introduction of new ASTM and UL test methods to updates in the International Building Code and NFPA 101, STI's training has evolved right alongside them. We've expanded beyond classroom and jobsite instruction to include online learning through Firestop University, interactive digital tools, and hands-on programs that connect directly to real-world applications. Today, more than 20,000 professionals each year gain the knowledge they need to design, specify, and install compliant firestop systems through STI's in-person and virtual training platforms.

Looking back, it's clear that our mission has never changed: to educate, empower, and elevate the industry through accessible, accurate, and actionable training. But as we look ahead, our challenge, and our opportunity, is to continue innovating how that training is delivered. Whether through new instructional modules, leveraging our learning management system, or collaborative programs with organizations like the International Firestop Council (IFC), Firestop Contractors International Association (FCIA), UL Solutions and Intertek, STI remains committed to leading the way in firestop education for decades to come.

After all, our legacy isn't just built on products, it's built on people who know how to protect lives through proper firestopping. That's something worth celebrating at 35 years, and beyond.



## Spotlight on Systems

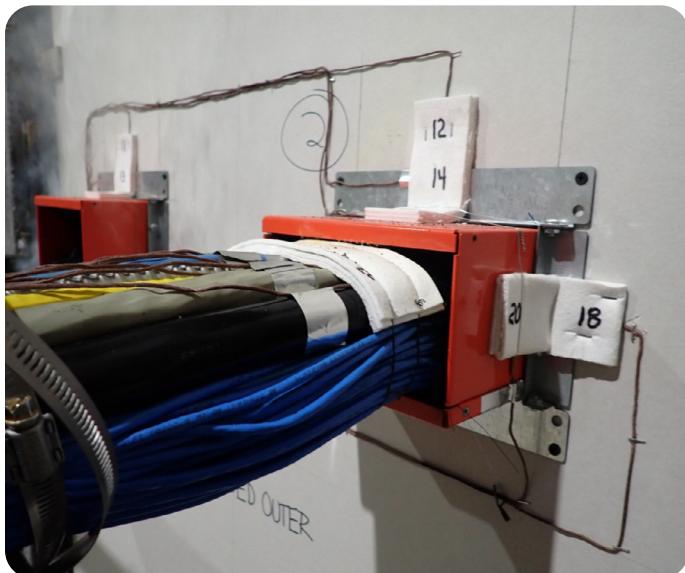


**David Vail**

P.E., Project Manager & Codes/Standards



EXC Firestop Collar Following Fire Test and Being Prepared for Hose Stream Test (C-AJ-2995)



Fire Testing of EZ Path® Series 84+ Devices (W-L-3508)

### New EXC Firestop Collar!

STI is excited to announce the release of the new SpecSeal® EXC Firestop Collar and system [C-AJ-2995](#). The EXC Firestop Collar is an innovative solution for firestopping 16 and 18 in. diameter nonmetallic pipes. The collar is specifically designed for these larger diameter penetrants and is the industry's first and only fully assembled firestop solution for plastic pipes of this size. A metered dose of intumescent wrap strip is provided to eliminate cutting in the field and then a metallic collar is secured around the wrap strip and attached to the floor or wall assembly to complete the collar installation. SpecSeal® Series SSS, LCI or SIL300 Sealant is installed as the smoke seal. The system provides a 2 Hr F Rating in concrete floor and wall assemblies and includes L Ratings with leakage rates of less than 1 CFM/sq ft at both ambient and 400°F.

### Intertek Firestop Block Systems

The [Summer 2024 Edition](#) of The Burn introduced SpecSeal® SBR Firestop Blocks to the market. This product is geared towards installers who prefer working with a block material compared to a firestop pillow. Both the firestop blocks and pillows are perfect solutions for medium to large sized openings where retrofit capabilities or limited access are considerations. Since the initial launch of the firestop blocks, STI has been working to develop a wider catalog of systems for the blocks to cover common firestopping applications. We are excited to share the latest batch of brand-new systems featuring the SpecSeal® SBR Firestop Blocks. These systems were developed through Intertek.

The six new firestop systems include coverage for nonmetallic pipes, cable bundles, AC linesets, metallic pipes, insulated metallic pipes, steel duct, steel strut/angles, busways and cable trays. The table below summarizes these applications and the corresponding Intertek listings. These systems do not currently appear with STI's System Search but will be added soon. Please feel free to contact our Engineering Services for copies of the listings in the interim. They can also help answer any questions related to the new systems or the SpecSeal® SBR Firestop Blocks in general.

Barrier Type	1 Hour Listing	2 Hour Listing	Wire Mesh Required
Gypsum Wall Assembly	STI/PF 60-09	STI/PF 120-09	Yes
Gypsum Wall Assembly	STI/PF 60-10	STI/PF 120-11	Optional
Concrete Floor/Wall	----->	STI/PF 120-10	Yes
Concrete Floor/Wall	----->	STI/PF 120-12	Optional

### New EZ Path® Series 84+ Device!

STI has recently developed four new UL systems for coverage with our new EZ Path® Series 84+ Fire Rated Pathway. These new devices are like the existing EZ Path® family of devices but feature a wider loading area for high volume cable conditions. [W-L-3508](#) and [W-J-3299](#) are single device designs intended for use in gypsum and concrete wall assemblies respectively. Multiple pathways can be installed within gypsum and concrete walls respectively using [W-L-3509](#) or [W-J-3300](#). The multiple pathway systems feature adjustable multi-gang wall brackets to accommodate different device configurations. At maximum capacity up to twelve Series 84+ pathways can populate the multi-gang wall brackets. Additionally, some bracket configurations also support the installation of a Series 44+ device adjacent to the new Series 84+ devices. All the systems support 0-100% cable fill within the devices and feature L Ratings.



## Innovative Firestop Solutions: A Contractor's Journey

### Specified Technologies Inc. Case Studies



#### Introduction

Specified Technologies Inc. recently sat down with [Tom Daves](#), WA Fire & Thermal Insulation Division Manager at Hudson Bay Insulation, to discuss his experience using our products and solutions in the field. With 20 years of expertise, Tom highlighted how solutions like [SpecSeal® Composite Sheet](#) and [SpecSeal® AS200 Elastomeric Spray](#) have become key solutions for tackling complex penetrations and large openings, offering both flexibility and long-term fire protection across a range of projects.

Tom's insights offer a firsthand look at how firestopping technologies are applied in real-world scenarios. Check out our interview with Tom below to learn more.

#### Industry Experience and Project Scope

**How long have you been working in the firestop industry, and what types of projects do you typically work on?**

"I have worked in the industry for 20 years, 5 in the field and 15 in the office, on a range of projects including Healthcare, Office, Residential (both wood frame and steel) and a wide range of large commercial projects."

#### First Impressions and Product Familiarity

**Before using STI Firestop products, were you familiar with the brand? If not, how did you first learn about us?**

"When I first learned about firestopping and the firestop industry, STI was the first manufacturer I used."

#### Installation and Performance

**How do STI Firestop products compare to other firestop solutions you've used in terms of ease of installation, performance, and overall reliability?**

"STI is my favorite as far as ease of install. The switch from Triple S to full scale LCI was the first of its kind. Performance of tooling the sealant is excellent and most importantly is their technical support which is as impactful of a solution tool as anything."

**Are there specific features of STI Firestop products that stand out to you as especially beneficial for your projects?**

"Because you exclusively make firestop products, you naturally seem to always have the specialty contractor in mind. Currently we're using a lot of [E-Wrap®](#) for shaft alternate solutions which is a big help to the projects we've installed it on."



#### Solving Real-World Challenges

**What challenges did you face on a particular project before incorporating STI Firestop solutions? Were there any issues related to firestop systems that needed a specialized solution?**

"The biggest issue I have had in the field is with compatibility with certain sealants and piping materials. For example, there are firestop products that aren't compatible with CPVC piping which we see a lot in our area which is used for sprinkler piping and a variety of laboratory waste/vent piping. We've never seen compatibility issues or warnings with STI's products\* which gives us confidence for whatever we encounter on the project."

**Can you describe a time when STI Firestop products helped resolve a difficult or complex situation on a project?**

"Many years ago, STI developed a solution where their composite sheet was able to enclose exposed steel in an elevator at Green River Community College. At the time, there was no product that could reactively accept the challenge of non-fireproofed steel."

#### Project Spotlights

**Can you walk us through a specific project where STI Firestop products were used? What was the scope of the project, and why were STI products selected?**

"Seattle Children's Forest B. It was chosen because I knew there would be a need for a variety of products, multiple needs for technical support and a documentation platform. STI was able to accommodate each of these needs."

**How did the installation process go? Was there anything about STI's products that made the installation easier or more efficient?**

"The installation of STI products was smooth. LCI's ([SpecSeal® LCI Intumescent Sealant](#)) ability to accomplish all trades and a variety of sizes for blockout penetrations was key."

**How did the STI Firestop products perform in terms of firestopping, sealing, and maintaining safety standards?**

"They performed to expectation. No issues or concerns. Hospitals are among the more complex firestopping project types we have, so having the products to provide water resistant, smoke, sound, air mitigation, fire, cable management all from one manufacturer is paramount."

#### Support and Training

**How important is manufacturer support and product training when it comes to firestop installation, in your experience?**

"It's mandatory. Product training is a valuable service, but manufacturer support is required as the market I'm in is very fluent in the requirements of firestop. So, when something isn't installed as the system shows, this becomes a non-negotiable."

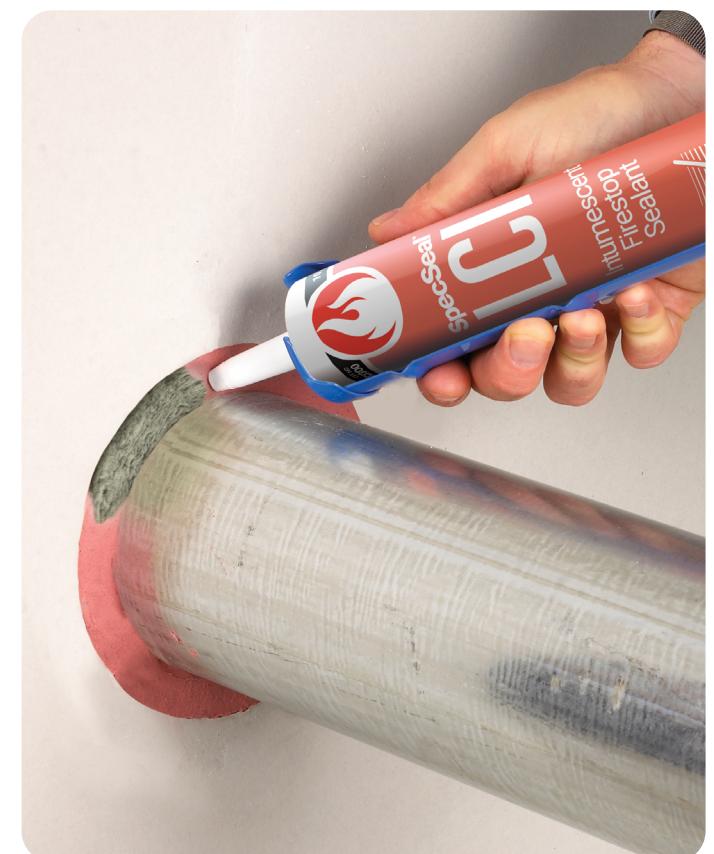
#### Final Thoughts

**What advice would you give to other contractors or engineers who are considering using STI Firestop products for their projects?**

"STI is well rounded and professional. They know the solutions to your questions and their experience is top tier."

**What's your key takeaway from using STI Firestop on your projects?**

"I can trust them. I never feel like they're overly conservative in their engineering judgments to the point where it makes me question their testing. I also trust their mission. As a Firestop Specialty Contractor, I fear some companies are trying to create products without my business in mind. STI seems to have people like me in the forefront of their R&D."



\*STI subscribes to the Lubrizol® FBC™ System Compatible Program and has product evaluations conducted by Spears® Manufacturing to confirm CPVC compatibility.

## Standing "Fore" Our Service Members, Year After Year

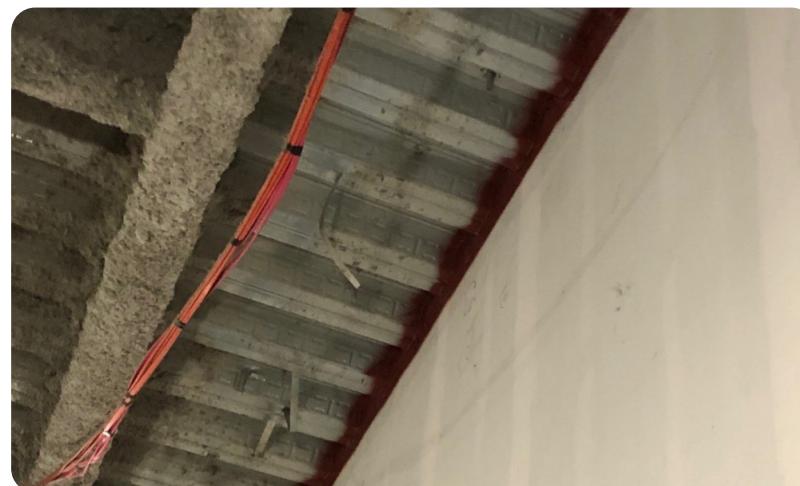
### Specified Technologies Inc. Staff

We were honored to participate in **Fore the Troops** and continue our long-standing support for their mission. Thanks to the leadership of **Gabe DiMarino** and **Kevin Boyle**, every dollar raised helps send care packages to service members overseas, small comforts that make a big difference. Fore the Troops hosts two annual fundraisers: a June Golf Tournament, the founding event that inspired the nonprofit's name, and a Sporting Clays outing introduced nine years ago to broaden fundraising and impact.

While the organization's name nods to golf, the photos in this article highlight the Sporting Clays outing held this past October. We're proud to support both events year over year and to stand behind those who serve. Learn more at [forethetroops.org](http://forethetroops.org).



## Product Field Shots



### AS200 Installation at Head-of-Wall Joint

**Project:** Atrium Health

**Location:** Charlotte, NC

**Contractor:** United Painting & Firestopping



### SSP Putty Pad Installation

**Project:** Atrium Health

**Location:** Charlotte, NC

**Contractor:** Old Dominion Firestop



### EZ Path Installation

**Project:** Orlando Health – Lakeland Highlands Hospital

**Location:** Lakeland, FL

**Contractor:** Florida Firestop

## Upcoming Trade Shows

### BICSI Winter Conference 2026

01/19/26 - 01/21/26, Orlando, Florida  
Booth #1017

### BEC Conference 2026

03/01/26 - 03/03/26, Louisville, Kentucky  
Booth #37

### ASHE PDC Summit

03/09/26 - 03/10/26, Houston, Texas  
Booth #519

### BUILD26 AWCI Conference

03/16/26 - 03/18/26, New Orleans, Louisiana  
Booth #533



### Meet the TEAM

#### Gerardo Carcamo

Digital Marketing Specialist



#### What is your role at Specified Technologies Inc. and how long have you been here?

My work at STI focuses on a variety of different digital channels including managing social media, email campaigns, customer surveys, and our website's blog. This is alongside supporting sales operations by processing pricing and quotes. I joined full-time in February 2024, and I first began as a Marketing Intern.

#### What is one bucket list item of yours?

One of my biggest bucket list items growing up was always exploring Europe, with Amsterdam being a favorite city of mine. I've had the pleasure of visiting three times, with the second one being the best as during that visit I asked my wife to marry me.

#### What project have you worked on in your career that you are most proud to have been a part of?

One of the projects I'm the proudest to have worked on was my RVotes Matter Civic Engagement Program. I took on this project beginning during the pandemic lockdowns and it started with a rough plan for civic engagement events and efforts throughout 2020 for the college I attended at the time. With lockdowns, most of the project stalled, thus I took ownership. I proceeded to adapt and execute for the following months social campaigns, voter registration drives, civic engagement events, and a variety of other efforts online to both encourage civic participation in that year's elections as well as maintaining a sense of unity and community among the college's community. Overall, the program was a great success, and I presented it to other colleges to implement similar programs and received a Presidential recognition for the effort.

#### What is your favorite part about working in the firestop industry?

For me the most special part of working in the firestop industry comes from the role that it allows me to play, as I can inform the world of an element in the construction process that I consider an unrecognized hero. I knew little about firestop before starting at STI, and I think that's the same story for most of the world. Everyday finding new and creative ways of informing, teaching, and spreading valuable firestop knowledge is a refreshing challenge that I enjoy and am grateful to have the opportunity to do.

#### What is one fun fact about yourself?

One fun fact about myself is that I ran a collectible goods reselling business all throughout high school which was a great opportunity to pick up some life lessons on entrepreneurship, negotiation, and dealing with difficult situations. Like any business there were some good times and bad times, and more than once I had to deal with goods being lost in the mail among a myriad of other situations. Most importantly I got to make mistakes and learn from them, and much of the experience still helps me out to this day with the many lessons I learned.