# Building Mass Timber: Workshop for Construction Management Faculty

October 20-22, 2025 | SUNY ESF, Syracuse, NY

## Overview

Mass timber construction is growing rapidly in the US, experiencing exponential growth since 2014. Despite this, a lack of an educated and knowledgeable workforce remains as a top barrier to wider use of these materials and techniques in domestic markets. The SUNY ESF Building Mass Timber: Workshop for Construction Management Faculty helps to resolve this barrier through a hands-on, small-group workshop that will guide faculty participants through current topics of interest regarding mass timber construction, provide them with experience on mass timber construction sites, and give them an opportunity to develop the framework for incorporating mass timber topics into their teaching. The two-and-a-half–day workshop features construction of a small mockup, takes participants to several mass timber buildings and fabrication facilities, and allows them to consider how these topics can be incorporated into their teaching. The workshop is led by faculty from SUNY ESF, as well as industry experts in timber design, manufacturing, and construction.

## Location and Format

The two-and-a-half-day workshop will be held at SUNY ESF in Syracuse, New York on October 20-October 22 (Sunday-Wednesday). Featured facilities during the session will include the Gateway Center, an AIA COTE award-winning building which prominently features components of mass timber construction, and the ESF Construction Management Research and Education Laboratory. The program will include lectures, tours, and hands on activities. The first day will focus on providing an overview of mass timber materials and construction and will introduce the two projects that participants will work on during the workshop: 1) construction of a Rothoblaas mass timber mockup and 2) identification of a mass timber-related instructional topic that participants will include in their teaching. The second day will feature tours of the Unalam fabrication facility in Sidney, NY, the National Veterans Resource Center in Syracuse, NY, and the Anne S Bowers College of Computing building in Ithaca, NY including interactions with project team members around key construction topics. The third (half) day will be focused on completion of mockup construction and a lightning presentation round where participants will share their curriculum plans, as well as a concluding discussion.

## Target Attendance and Recruitment

This workshop is designed for pre-tenure and recently tenured faculty in college and university construction management (also construction engineering and construction science) departments who are developing a research, teaching, and/or outreach agenda focused on mass timber construction processes, mass timber building materials and systems, and sustainability considerations. This program will provide participants with a foundation for

integrating mass timber topics into courses and research seminars. Additionally, small groups of participants will construct five Rothoblaas mockups ; these will be made available for selected participants to take back to their home institutions with a set of implementation activities and data collection parameters for future curriculum research. Resources on mass timber for use in construction courses will be provided.

The workshop will host a target of 25 participants; a wait list will be developed if applications exceed available slots. Travel expenses will be reimbursed and meals provided or offset.

**Learning Objectives and Deliverables**

This workshop will empower faculty to bring expert-level mass timber knowledge into their curricula, preparing students for a future in lower-carbon design and construction. Participant learning objectives include:

- *Objective 1:* Participants will learn about unique aspects of the mass timber construction process from preconstruction through project execution.
- *Objective 2*: Participants will learn about the challenges of building with mass timber through hands-on construction of mass timber mockup that allows them to gain familiarity with various connector types.
- *Objective 3*: Participants will understand the basics of mass timber structures, products, building systems, and types of connections and connectors commonly found in mass timber construction.
- *Objective 4*: Participants will visit mass timber buildings, learning about the applications of mass timber in the built environment and the unique costing, builder's risk insurance, integrated design, logistics, and installation considerations.
- *Objective 5*: Participants will explore ways to incorporate a mass timber topic into one of their classes for the coming academic year.

**Agenda**

Participants will arrive in Syracuse, NY on October 19, 2025. Attendees traveling by air will fly in and out of Syracuse Hancock airport. The workshop will be structured as follows, but may be revised as required:

| | **Monday** | **Tuesday** | **Wednesday** |
|---|---|---|---|
| 700 | Head to campus | Breakfast at ESF and board bus for tour of MT fabrication and installation sites | Head to campus |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 0730-0830 | Breakfast | 1. National Veterans Resource Center, Syracuse University- Planning, scheduling, and logistics<br><br>2. Unalam, Sidney, NY- Fabrication and coordination<br><br>Lunch<br><br>3. Bowers College of Computing, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY- Moisture management<br><br>- Installation<br><br>Return to campus by 1700 | Breakfast |
| 0830-0930 | Intros and tour Gateway Center | | MT supply chain, installation |
| 0930-1030 | Basics of MT construction/codes | | MT sustainability |
| 1030-1045 | Break - Demonstrate a CLT panel being loaded to failure in bending - | | Break in CM Lab |
| 1045-1200 | MT preconstruction - unique considerations and documents | | Work on mockups |
| 1200-1300 | Lunch | | Lunch in CM Lab |
| 1300-1400 | MT connectors | | Finish work on mockups (1200-1415) |
| 1400-1500 | MT for CM curriculum pilot | | |
| 1500-1600 | Work on mockups for rest of day | | Closing and discussion 2:15-2:30 |
| 1600-1700 | | | Shuttles to Airport |
| | Dinner - ESF campus | Dinner - ESF campus | |
| | Homework: Incorporating a MT lesson into an existing course | Discussion of lessons | |