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Top construction projects honored

By **Dave Hodges** DEMOCRAT BUSINESS EDITOR

The Florida State University College of Education Expansion and Renovation was named the 2009 Project of the Year by the Northwest Florida Chapter of Associated Builders and Contractors at the group's biennial awards banquet Thursday night.

The top honor went to general contractor and construction manager Childers Construction Co. of Tallahassee. The architect for the \$10.5 million project was Elliott Marshall Innes P.A., and the mechanical, electrical and plumbing engineering consultant was H2Engineering Inc.

The 2009 Specialty Project of the Year went to J.D. James Inc. of Tallahassee for

its finish carpentry and architectural woodwork in the St. Regis Hotel & Residences in Atlanta. The award goes to the most outstanding work by a subcontractor.

"We build the places where we work and where others work," Jerry Gorski, national ABC chairman and president of Gorski Engineering Inc. in Collegeville, Pa., told the gathering at the University Center Club. "We enable people to get back and forth. We build the places where we worship and where we play. It really does start with us."

Nominees for the Excellence in Construction Awards program of Associated Builders & Contractors are evaluated by a panel of independent

judges. Rather than a competition among builders, the awards are given based on how well a project meets the scoring criteria in its category.

The Eagle Award is the top honor in each category, and the Merit Award is for second place.

"Overall, I thought the quality of the work and the presentations was really high," said Dan Downey, one of the judges and the publisher of Southeast Construction Magazine. He noted that there were more total entries in the program than there were two years ago.

Chapter winners are eligible to go on to compete at the national level.

Eagle award winners were Ajax Building Corp.,

Allstate Construction Inc., Riley Palmer Construction Co. Inc., Lord & Son Construction Inc., RAM Construction & Development Inc., DooleyMack Constructors of Northwest Florida LLC, Construct Two Group, Peter R. Brown Construction Inc., Nature Bridges, LLT Building Corp., Ingram Enterprises Inc., Rowe Roofing Inc., Kinsey Contractors Inc. and Comfort Systems USA (Southeast) Inc.

Merit award winners were Turner Construction Co., Lord & Son Construction Inc., LLT Building Corp., Southland Contracting Inc., Pro-Steel Buildings Inc. and Peter R. Brown Construction Inc.