

## The Reason- By Stan Southwick



I attended a ground breaking ceremony yesterday for one of the new elementary schools that we recently completed and was reminded of the reason we design. I have to admit that the design process for the new schools has not gone as smoothly as hoped. There have been multiple changes due to site constraints, redesigns to reduce costs and all under the pressure of a very tight schedule.

I think that all of us in the office, especially Cassi, are glad that this first group of schools is winding down. As the ground breaking ceremony went on, Pat Skorkowsky, the CCSD Superintendent, opened his comments by inviting four Pre-Kindergarten children from the neighboring elementary school to come up front and stand by him. He said that they would be the first class to go through all the grades at this new school and then proceeded to remind all the adults in attendance that the reason we were here was to celebrate the students that would be using the facility that we had designed.

Governor Sandoval then came to the podium and gave each one of the children a high-five, said something to them privately and elaborated more about the real reason we were there... the kids. That was a great reminder to me to keep focused on those who will be using the spaces we design as we deal with the inconveniences along the way. This is a great pattern for life in general: don't get too bogged down in the moment, keep focused on the end goal.

### Consultant of the Month

Michael Bechtel, project manager at Korte, is April's



consultant of the month. Michael has a strong passion for his projects which is evident in his dedication and pursuit for consultant collaboration. We appreciate his ever-present positive outlook and ability to look for dynamic and collaborative solutions. Thank you Michael for sharing your passion with us.

"It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken men."  
— Frederick Douglass

## Favorite Flora:

### Drosanthemum floribundum- Rosea Ice Plant- By Matt Durham



Have you ever wanted a blanket of flowers covering the ground in your landscape? Rosea Ice Plant (*Drosanthemum floribundum*) might just be what you are looking for. This perennial groundcover grows to about 6 inches tall and can spread up to 6 feet. In the springtime this ice plant explodes with color, becoming covered in pink to purple flowers that can be so dense you can barely see any green. Like many succulents grown in Las Vegas, *Drosanthemum floribundum* is native to South Africa. It can be planted in full sun to partial shade although it blooms better in sunnier locations. Rosea Ice Plant is somewhat drought tolerant but does need regular watering throughout the hottest months. Make sure this plant is planted in well-drained soil as it can be susceptible to root rot.

The name *Drosanthemum*, meaning "dew flower" in Greek, is derived from its shiny translucent papillae (plant cuticle) that forms on the leaves and flower buds. This feature gives the leaves the appearance that they are covered in dew or frost when in the sunlight. Rosea Ice Plant can be paired with any number of plants but looks great cascading over rocks and winding through barrel cactus. Try Golden Barrel Cactus (*Echinocactus grusonii*), San Pedro Cactus (*Echinopsis pachanoi*), and Weber Agave (*Agave weberi*) with this ice plant for a colorful blend of textures.

### Photo of the Month



Desert in Bloom  
Fortification Hill, Arizona  
Matt Durham