

Rio Grande Fence Co. of Nashville Named 2016 National Fence Contractor of the Year

-- 2016 is Rio Grande Fence Co.'s Second Consecutive American Fence Association National Fence Contractor of the Year Award and Third in Four Years --

NASHVILLE, Tenn.--Feb. 9, 2017--Rio Grande Fence Co. of Nashville was named 2016 National Fence Contractor of the Year by the American Fence Association at FENCETECH 2017 in San Antonio, Texas. AFA's Fence Contractor of the Year Award recognizes a company's outstanding service to AFA that advances the name, reputation and ideals of the Association on both local and national levels, as well as the company's integrity and character. Rio Grande has won the award three of the past four years.

"Commitment to innovative training in fence industry education and fresh employee engagement concepts separated Rio Grande Fence Co. of Nashville's entry in this year's competition," said Tony Thornton, Executive Director of American Fence Association. "The focus on employees creates a great culture that shows in their team's quality installations and service that consistently delights customers. These guys really are the commercial fence professionals."

"We're excited to win the national award two years in a row, and three out of the past four. This recognition validates the unique employee training programs we have created and overall dedication to quality in everything we do," said Derek M. Smith, Vice President of Operations and third-generation owner. "Rio Grande Fence Co. has been committed to excellence and leadership in the fencing industry since our founding in 1958."

"In 2016, we were especially proud to hold our inaugural Fence Skills Championship among our team. The event demonstrated the scope and speed of our employees' skills in eight core fencing competencies," Smith said. "Professional videographers were also on-site to create videos we use for training new employees."

"We would like to see a national competition for the fencing industry modeled after the Fence Skills Championship," Smith said. "The entire event can be scaled to include additional fencing skills and new locations."

Since 1958 Rio Grande Fence Co. of Nashville, The Commercial Fence Professionals™, has been installing and repairing fence for commercial and industrial projects in the Mid-South region. Rio Grande's work can be seen at Nashville's police precincts, Nissan Stadium, Nashville International Airport, and many other businesses, sports facilities and government projects.

NOTE: Photos of Michael and Derek Smith (owners) accepting the 2016 AFA Fence Contractor of the Year Award, and video of Rio Grande Fence Co.'s Fence Skills Championship, are available for free and unrestricted media use at <https://rgfence.box.com/v/020917PressRelease>

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