The new National Gypsum Company was formed in 1993 in Charlotte with the core value of differentiating themselves from their competitors. They offer excellent service and high quality products at a low delivered cost. Rodney Burciaga, Marketing Manager, assures that National Gypsum’s takes into consideration their customers, business partners, communities and most importantly, its associates, in all of the company’s decisions.

HCAC: Rodney, please tell us more about National Gypsum and their business.

**Rodney Burciaga:** The original National Gypsum Company (NGC) was founded in 1925 by Melvin H. Baker, Joseph F. Haggerty, and Clarence E. Williams, who developed a process to make gypsum wallboard lighter and more flexible. Their product was what we know as modern wallboard. Subsequently, after it’s refounding in 1993, the new NCG became privately held in 1995 and has invested over $1 billion in the business in that time, including new plants, equipment, and technology, becoming one of the largest gypsum producers in the world.

HCAC: Tell us about the company’s vision?

**RB:** Our vision statement is to be recognized as the industry leader for extraordinary service and products that consistently meet our customers’ toughest standards. In addition, NGC has three more key strategies:

- Foster a sense of urgency for achievement, growth, and innovation.
- Attract and retain people who are committed to excellence and offer a work environment
that recognizes growth and contribution.
- Earn the industry's best financial returns.

HCAC: Are there any success stories you would like to share with us?

RB: The Company has received several awards to highlight regarding its business and operations at production plants, such as the IndustryWeek Magazine award that named the company’s Apollo Beach plant in Florida, and its Wilmington, NC plant one of the 10 Best Manufacturing Plants in North America in 2005 and 2006, respectively. Also, Pennsylvania awarded the company’s Shippingport, PA plant the Governor's Environmental Award.

In addition, NGC is considered one of the safest companies in the United States.

HCAC: What steps do you recommend for a business owner to be successful?

RB: Work Hard, Be Safe and Have Fun. A company should be the best at what they do and allow their work to prove it.

HCAC: From your point of view, what certifications or training should a company in the construction sector have to be truly competitive?

RB: I believe OSHA is very important but also any certification that helps with better practices can only have a positive impact.
HCAC: What does it mean for you to be a HCAC member?

RB: For me, being from Hispanic heritage and with the majority of our end customers being Hispanic, it’s a way to help better support that community.

HCAC: What value does the HCAC bring to the industry?

RB: HCAC helps to build the bridge between Hispanic Contractors, GC’s and manufacturers. Connecting the dots and helping building strong relationships is what HCAC does best in my book.