



2007 Kansas State Fair
Construction Learning Center
Kansas Construction Careers Coalition (KC³)

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SHORTAGE OF WORKERS LEADS CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY TO STATE FAIR

HUTCHINSON, KS— It's becoming a common phrase across America- "worker shortage." As the Baby Boomer generation approaches retirement, the problem will only become worse and the construction industry has already started feeling the pinch.

"For 10 years we have been saying the worker shortage is coming. Well, it's here and if we don't address this issue now, our country will be in a lot of trouble," said Becky Harmon of Koss Construction, Chair of the Kansas Construction Careers Coalition(KC³), an organized partnership between the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc., the Kansas Contractors Association and the National Association of Women in Construction created to promote the many career opportunities available today in the construction industry.

KC³ committee members came up with the idea of holding a Construction Learning Center at the State Fair to reach the youth of Kansas over a 10-day period. The learning center will consist of free hands-on, construction

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related activities for kids of all ages. Activities range from building blocks for younger children, to a real excavator/backhoe that older kids will be able to operate under supervision.

“Committee members were talking last fall about more efficient ways to reach the youth in Kansas to tell them about the high paying careers available in the construction industry and what better way than to reach the tens of thousands of kids who attend the Fair,” Harmon said.

From highway and road construction, to the construction of retail, office space and schools, there are no signs of the construction industry slowing down. According to a survey by the National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER), by 2012, there will be one million new jobs available in the construction industry, a rate of over 240,000 new jobs per year.

“With the expected growth in the industry, our members need workers,” said Corey Peterson, Executive Vice President of the AGC of Kansas. “Construction work will never be exported and not too many industries can guarantee that. You can’t build a building in China and ship it over to the US,” added Peterson.

For more information about career opportunities available in the construction industry, visit

www.kansasconstructioncareers.com.

The dates for the 2007 Kansas State Fair are September 7 through September 16. KC³ will be the day sponsor of the State Fair on Thursday, September 13. The Construction Learning Center is located on the fairgrounds at the just east of Lake Talbott, located on the intersection of Lake Talbott Ave. and Ft. Leavenworth Blvd.

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