

NEWS RELEASE

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KDOT and KCA launch new construction training program

Public-private partnership will benefit Kansas workers

Having a skilled workforce is essential for providing a quality transportation system and for allowing continued economic growth. With this in mind, the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA) announce a new training program that will enhance the opportunities of Kansas workers and develop a highly skilled workforce to serve the state's transportation needs.

“Through this program, we can better ensure that construction workers will receive the skills they need to provide a safe and quality transportation system for our state,” said KDOT Secretary Deb Miller. “We know a reliable transportation system and a skilled workforce are vital to a healthy economy, and thanks to this partnership with the KCA -- we can aid both these efforts.”

KDOT will oversee the program's curriculum, and have the option of sending its own employees to the relevant courses. In turn, KCA will be charged with providing the instructors, facilities, materials, and administration to organize the courses, which will be held all across the state.

The program is designed to give construction workers the additional skills they need for career advancement, which should increase the construction industry's retention rates. And it will generate awareness to attract new workers to the industry. For example, one of the program's priorities will be to increase the number of women and minority workers participating in the training courses.

“Attracting workers to the construction industry has been particularly challenging in recent years,” said Mike Morrand, President of KCA and Carrothers Construction Company. “Through this training program, we will help provide more workers a career path, which serves as both a recruitment and a retention tool for the industry. And in turn, Kansans will benefit from having a more skilled workforce building and maintaining their roads.”

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