

## THE KANSAS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION, INC.

316 SW 33RD · PO BOX 5061  
TOPEKA KS 66605-0061



TEL (785) 266-4152  
FAX (785) 266-6191  
[kca@ink.org](mailto:kca@ink.org)  
[www.kansas.gov/kca](http://www.kansas.gov/kca)

Contact:

Karen Wagaman  
Director of Marketing  
Kansas Contractors Association  
785-817-0555  
[kca4@ink.org](mailto:kca4@ink.org)  
[www.kansascontractors.org](http://www.kansascontractors.org)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **First Construction Industry Training Class Offered to Great Bend & Hutchinson Contractors**

*Public-private partnership will benefit Kansas workers*

Four area contractors are taking advantage of the first class in a training program to promote a skilled heavy, highway construction workforce. One week ago (March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007) the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) and the Kansas Contractors Association (KCA) announced a new construction training program designed to train a highly skilled workforce to serve the state's transportation needs. The first class is scheduled Friday, March 16 at the Highland Hotel & Convention Center in Great Bend, Kansas.

More than 30 industry professionals from Venture Corporation and L & M Contractors, Inc; both of Great Bend; APAC-Kansas, Inc. Shears Division of Hutchinson; and Sherwood Construction Co. Inc. of Wichita are enrolled in an OSHA 10-Hour course.

The class, offered by the Kansas Contractors Association, covers key construction safety and occupational health objectives for heavy construction workers. The course emphasizes topics such as fall protection, trenching and excavation, hazardous material handling, electrical standards, scaffolding, tools, and personal protective equipment. Instructing the course is authorized OSHA trainer Michael L. Marvin, Manager, Safety and Loss Control for Sherwood Construction Co. Inc. in Wichita. Upon completion of the course and final exam, trainees receive the 10-hour Department of Labor / OSHA completion card.

The program includes courses in a variety of subjects which are being scheduled statewide. Hands on training and classroom curriculum will give construction workers the additional skills they need for career advancement, which should increase the construction industry's retention rates. Another goal of the program is to raise awareness of the heavy construction industry as a career choice and attract new workers to the industry. Of particular interest is the desire to increase the number of women and minority workers employed in the industry.

"Attracting workers to the construction industry has been particularly challenging in recent years," said Mike Morrand, President of KCA and Carrothers Construction Company. "This training program will serve as a recruitment and retention tool for our contractors. It will also offer workers opportunities to advance in the industry by providing them the tools they need to improve their craft," he continued. "In turn, Kansans will benefit from having a more skilled workforce building and maintaining their roads."

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#### **ABOUT THE KANSAS CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION**

The Kansas Contractors Association represents 400 members of the heavy, highway and utility construction industries across Kansas. As the state's largest full-service association, KCA is committed to constantly improving the industry offering government and regulatory programs,; networking and social events; education and safety programs; and industry specific products and publications.