



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY ASSOCIATIONS RECEIVE NATIONAL HONOR
FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS**

TOPEKA, KS— The Kansas Construction Careers Coalition (KC³) received the Associated General Contractors (AGC) of America Public Relations Award *Best Construction Futures (Education) Program* for the *Construction Learning Center* at the 2007 Kansas State Fair.

The Chapter Public Relations Awards are national awards given out to recognize top chapter achievements in public relations. The awards were presented at the recent AGC of America Annual Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada. AGC chapters submitted entries for community service projects, media or print campaigns, legislative campaigns and other activities that created positive public relations for the construction industry.

Already facing a worker shortage, five years ago the Kansas Contractors Association and the Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc. pooled their resources to create a group focused on promoting the vast and rewarding careers available in the construction industry. The Topeka and Wichita chapters of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) chapters participate the third construction related organization in this consortium. The Kansas Construction Careers Coalition (KC³) works to promote these careers through participation in career fairs, high school construction programs and after school programs. KC³ also promotes technical education through legislative representation and communication with counselors, educators and school administrators across the state.

Instead of sitting back and wondering where tomorrow's workers will come from, the KC³ formed the first *Construction Learning Center* at the Kansas State Fair. The 7,500 square foot exhibit featured free, hands-on activities for kids of all ages. The youngest participants were challenged to build a 24-inch tall structure using building blocks. Other activities for older kids included remote controlled excavators, drills and tape measures, playground excavators and backhoe golf.

The goal of the Construction Learning Center was to educate children, adults, parents and grandparents about the career opportunities available in the commercial building, heavy highway and utility construction industry. While children participated in the various activities, association staff and member volunteers had the opportunity to educate parents on the career opportunities available in the construction industry.

Through the 10 days of the exhibit, more than 2,000 fair-goers stopped by the *Construction Learning Center*. After last year's success, the KC³ has already committed to holding the *Construction Learning Center* at the 2008 Kansas State Fair.

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The Kansas Contractors Association (KCA) is the recognized leader of the heavy construction industry in the state of Kansas. Since 1923, this statewide chapter of the AGC of America has provided services to its members in such areas as legislation, governmental regulations, on-the-job training, liaison with awarding authorities, project information and numerous other services. The Kansas Contractors Association brings strength and unity to association members and serves as the “watchdog” while striving to protect and preserve the livelihood of the heavy, highway and utility construction industry.

The Associated General Contractors of Kansas, Inc. is a fully certified Chapter of the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), representing the commercial building construction industry in Kansas with over 275 general contractor, subcontractor and supplier members. AGC represents more than 8,000 general contractors in all 50 states who are organized into some 102 local chapters. With the exception of suburban Johnson and Wyandotte counties, all of Kansas is within the sphere of responsibility of the AGC of Kansas, Inc.

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