



**NEWS RELEASE
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Missouri Construction Training Program Builds Better Lives
Program Helps Disadvantaged Residents Find Work in Construction Field

Austin, TX - The National Partnership for Highway Quality (NPHQ) announced today that the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT) and Paseo Corridor Constructors (PCC) have won the Bronze Award for "Making A Difference - Workforce Training."

The announcement was made in Austin, Texas, by NPHQ, a partnership among federal, state and roadway industry leaders and officials that promotes highway quality, safety and service to the highway user.

The winning kclCON Project design-build team received the award for its exemplary on-the-job training program that offers minorities, women and economically disadvantaged individuals a chance to learn a trade and build a successful career in heavy construction.

Two training programs are offered. Individuals with the skills to start work immediately can apply for the on-the-job training program through Paseo Corridor Constructors. They are brought on as apprentices, learning the job and accumulating hours toward journeyman status. As employees in training, participants work and learn the construction craft, and take classes provided by participating local apprenticeship programs.

Potential employees who are not able to find work through the on-the-job training program can take advantage of a pre-apprenticeship program. This program helps those who want to enter the construction field obtain the skills and knowledge they need.

"MoDOT and Paseo Corridor Constructors are creating opportunities that will grow a more diverse workforce in the Kansas City region," said kclCON Project Director Brian Kidwell. "We're proud to be recognized for our workforce development efforts because this project is more than just building roads and bridges. We're bettering lives by providing opportunities for those ready, willing and able to work in heavy highway construction."

The \$245 million kclCON project will reconstruct/rehabilitate 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 from Route 210/Armour Road in North Kansas City to the northeast corner of the downtown Kansas City freeway loop. The project includes improving outdated interchanges and the construction of the Christopher S. Bond Bridge, a new landmark, cable-stayed Missouri River Bridge.

Paseo Corridor Constructors is a joint-venture partnership of Clarkson Construction Company, Massman Construction Company and Kiewit Construction Company. The project was designed by Parsons Transportation Group and TranSystems.

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"Making A Difference" awards recognize overall project quality, partnerships between state departments of transportation and private contractors, technical and materials innovations, effectiveness and creativity of public involvement, team effectiveness in meeting or exceeding expected deadlines, costs and deliverables, responsiveness to environmental needs and opportunities as well as adherence to other principles of quality management.

NPHQ is a national coalition of public highway agencies, industry organizations and private firms founded in 1992 as the National Quality Initiative. For more than 15 years, NPHQ continues to be the only National program that brings public highway agencies and private industry together to combine their expertise and to cooperatively lead the advancement in highway quality, safety and service to the highway users. For more information on the NPHQ and its awards: www.nphq.org.

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