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January 15, 2020

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KCA Releases 2020 Construction Forecast Survey Results

Many Contractors Expect More of the Same Good Times in 2020!

Harrisburg, PA – The Keystone Contractors Association (KCA) issued the results from its 2020 commercial construction forecast, a survey of construction companies that are based throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The results of the 2020 KCA Construction Forecast indicate that most of the commercial construction industry expect this year to be reflective of 2019, which was a very good year for construction.

“Contractor members of the KCA, as well as contractors who belong to our sister associations across the state, for the most part seem to indicate that 2020 will mirror last year,” said Jon O’Brien, Executive Director of the KCA. “The major difference between this upcoming year and last year is that we’re booming to start off the year. In 2019 there was a lot of optimism entering the year, but many projects took a while to start. Like last year, the concern for construction companies is the search for talent for the office and the field.”

According to the KCA’s annual forecast survey, 64 percent of construction companies believe that 2020 will be better than last year, with 12 percent forecasting a drastic growth for their company. On the flipside, seven percent of construction companies expect a drop-in business in 2020. While 29 percent of the state’s construction companies expect to maintain the same level of business this year as they did in 2019.

In the area of employment growth expected for 2020, 64 percent of construction companies expect to increase the number of workers in the field and 35 percent expect to expand its professional office staff.

“Workforce development continues to be a big deal for the construction industry, and we don’t expect this to fade anytime soon. The KCA will continue its efforts in this area by hosting career fairs, organizing tours of training centers for students, educators, policy makers and the general public,” said O’Brien. “Along with supporting great organizations like the ACE Mentor Program

to reach future construction workers, we are also launching a podcast any day now and we'll focus on many topics, including workforce development. Construction is open for business and we offer family-sustaining careers that we want everyone to know about."

During the collection process of this forecast survey, many construction executives shared some thoughts with their survey response. A couple of noteworthy comments from anonymous company owners included:

"Low unemployment is good for an overall economy, but it's very challenging for an individual company to fill openings."

"Low interest rates are key for sustaining recent economic growth and as long as the Federal Reserve maintains low rates, I anticipate that 2020 and 2021 will bode well for construction."

"We continue to see growth in the industrial market where owners continue to upgrade technology and replace antiquated equipment."

"The student housing market on colleges continues to expand with no end in sight. Not to mention all the rest of the work on campuses, especially PSU."

For interview requests with construction executives, please contact the KCA.

About the KCA: The Keystone Contractors Association represents the leading commercial construction companies in Pennsylvania and KCA provides valuable member services such as education & training, career development, safety, labor relations, community service, and government relations. For more information, contact the KCA at 717-731-6272 or Jon@KeystoneContractors.com.

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