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Contact: 717-731-6272 – Jon@KeystoneContractors.com

KCA Releases 2018 Construction Forecast Survey Results

Pennsylvania's Construction Industry is Optimistic about 2018!

Harrisburg, PA – The Keystone Contractors Association (KCA) issued the results from its 2018 construction forecast, a survey of construction companies that are based throughout the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The results of the 2018 KCA Construction Forecast indicate that most of the commercial construction industry expect this year to be better than last year.

The following are a few key takeaways from the 2018 KCA Construction Forecast:

- 83% of construction companies believe that 2018 will be better than last year.
- Of the companies with an optimistic outlook this year, 18% think that their company will experience a drastic growth in 2018, while 65% of construction companies believe they will have a modest growth this year.
- On the flipside, 3% of construction companies expect a drop-in business in 2018.
- 14% of the state's construction industry expect to maintain the same level of business this year as they did in 2017.
- In the area of jobs in 2018, 56% of construction companies expect to increase the number of workers in the field; 59% expect to expand its professional office staff; and 18% expect to maintain the same employment levels as 2017.

This survey was distributed to the entire membership of the KCA, along with other construction companies to ensure that each area of the state, and market sector, is represented. During the interview process to gather the responses, the following noteworthy comments from construction executives were made:

- "Adding Labor in the field is the key for our expectant growth in 2018."
- "We expect to subcontract more in 2018 due to more work in 2018."
- "Our company will experience a slowdown in apartment/condo work, but it will be replaced by medical, university and government housing."
- "Let's hope Prevailing Wage can hang on because if you think finding Labor is tough now."

- “I’ll be carefully watching the impact of the federal tax relief bill and also the mergers and acquisitions within the healthcare sector.”
- “The competition, as well as the mergers, in the healthcare market should greatly benefit the construction industry in 2018 and beyond.”
- “We expect substantial growth in: healthcare, distribution, waste water, and bridge construction. And I expect the competition for talent to continue to be intense in 2018.”
- “General contractors will continue a healthy backlog for 2018 but when will this steady flow shut off: 2019? 20? 21?”
- “Skilled Labor shortage is REAL.”
- “The depth of Labor is a short-term and long-term concern. We need to attract more people to the trades.”
- “Healthcare sector should be the leader; plus, large energy projects will not be far behind. The field shortage is an issue, but so is the shortage of talent with the professionals. A healthy industry coupled with lack of professionals may lead to the ‘out of state’ GCs that chase medical and energy work to set up offices in state.”
- “The construction industry is booming let’s hope government doesn’t get in the way.”

“Due to the KCA’s geography, covering almost the entire state of Pennsylvania and considering our relationships in this industry cover the remainder of the state, I think this annual survey is the most comprehensive commercial construction industry forecast for the entire state of Pennsylvania. The respondents from the survey are the CEOs from construction companies – individuals that have the big picture vision of where a company is going in the future,” said Jon O’Brien, executive director, 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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