October is "Careers in Construction Month"

October 18, 2019 - Construction Design & Engineering

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October is "Careers in Construction Month," something Governor Charlie Baker is expected to recognize here in Massachusetts with an official state proclamation. It couldn't come at a better time, as there has never been a greater need to bring more people into the industry. And that need spells opportunity for those who are exploring their career options.

The proclamation notes that construction is one of the nation's largest industries, employing more than five million people, and that it needs 1.4 million new craft professionals over the next three years alone.

The construction industry's "earn while you learn" model means employees can go to schools such as ABC's Gould Construction Institute while they're working, and member companies routinely pay for the training. Workers emerge with the skills they need to pursue a high-paying career, and without the debt that goes along with entering so many other lucrative fields.

But construction isn't just for those who choose not to go to college. An ever-more sophisticated and fast-growing industry holds opportunities for individuals with a variety of education levels. And the merit shop model means people can rise as high as their talent and ambition will take them.

ABC's Building Mass Careers and its accompanying website, http://www.buildingmasscareers.com/, is a great source for learning about construction-related career options.

Massachusetts is fortunate to have both a strong open shop and a strong union sector. Individuals interested in construction can choose based on their own preferences. Regardless of which you select, the industry has never offered more opportunity for rewarding, lucrative careers with unlimited potential for advancement. Come join us!

Karl Hudson is the chairman of Associated Builders and Contractors Inc.-Mass. Chapter, Woburn and is VP of L.C. Anderson, Inc., Brighton, Mass.