



## **MCA Construction Week Talking Points**

### **Who is involved in Construction Week?**

The Montana Contractors' Association, and its more than 250 general contractor, specialty contractor, and associate members, have committed to making Construction Week a success. The effort also includes members of the construction industry all over the United States.

### **What is Construction Week?**

It is a nation-wide effort created to raise awareness of the opportunities available in the construction industry and to promote construction as a safe, exciting and rewarding career option. The MCA and its members will be reaching out to educators throughout the month of September, arranging opportunities to visit with students to talk about the benefits associated with careers in construction. In October, contractors will be visiting Montana schools to share information and their enthusiasm for the industry with Montana students.

### **When is Construction Week?**

Construction Week will take place Oct. 7-11 2019.

### **Where is Construction Week?**

Construction Week will be occurring in communities throughout the state. Watch the MCA website ([www.mtagc.org](http://www.mtagc.org)) to find out where Construction Week activities will be taking place near you.

### **Why Construction Week?**

Construction employs about 26,000 people statewide and accounts for about \$3 billion of Montana's Gross Domestic Product. Despite the large presence of the construction industry in our state, MCA members struggle on a daily basis with attracting new, skilled employees. Sometimes they even need to turn down work because they don't have the manpower they need. According to the AGC's 2018 Construction Outlook, 80 percent of firms struggle to find qualified employees. It's time for this to change!

To do that, we need to shift the way people think about careers in construction, and this conversation needs to begin in Montana classrooms and living rooms. Rather than looking at construction as a "fallback" career, it's time for students, parents, and educators to realize construction is the perfect first choice for many Montanans. Good wages, solid benefits, and opportunity for upward mobility are just a few reasons to take this path rather than feel obligated to pursue a four-year degree.

**How will Construction Week be successful?**

Construction Week will be successful if contractors and educators join efforts with the MCA to make the event organized and worthwhile in their communities. While the MCA will provide statewide publicity and the tools its members need to begin the conversation about construction as a career, members need to make the necessary contacts and take time to make the effort a success on a local level. That might mean making a presentation and answering questions for a high school metal-working class; bringing an excavator to an elementary school and letting students climb on it and ask questions; or inviting a group of teachers to tour a job site to meet your employees. Every community is different, and no one solution will work for everyone.

**Where can I get more information about Construction Week or careers in construction?**

To get more information about Construction Week, contactCarolynn Bright the MCA at (406) 442-4162 or visit [www.mtagc.org](http://www.mtagc.org).

To learn more about careers in construction, visit [www.mtagc.org](http://www.mtagc.org) and click on “Let’s Build MT.”