



FOR RELEASE: July 1, 2011

Contact: John McKeon jmckeon@cmaanet.org

“Rising CMs” Are Audience for New CMAA Conference

“Rising CMs” – college seniors, second-semester juniors and early-career Construction Managers In Training– will be the audience for a new conference presented by the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) immediately preceding its 2011 National Conference & Trade Show in Washington, DC.

The 1.5-day event will focus on issues of major interest to new CM practitioners and students planning to enter the professional workforce soon. It will take place on Saturday, November 5 and Sunday morning, November 6, 2011, at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in downtown Washington. The CMAA National Conference begins Sunday afternoon and runs through November 8.

A highlight of the Rising CMs conference will be a career fair at which young CMAA student and CMIT members will be able to meet with representatives from leading CM firms and owner organizations. Attendees will take part in a “speed networking” event designed to enable them to have brief meetings with a large number of prospective employers in a short time.

“The Rising CM Conference is the first of its kind,” notes Prof. Jesus M. de la Garza of Virginia Tech, “and its primary purpose is to actively engage the potential from the student chapters and plug them into the national context. The students today will be the members of the CMAA national and regional chapters tomorrow.”

“CMAA needs to be vertically integrated through a pipeline to the Student Chapters,” de la Garza adds. “For example the ideal time to become a CMIT is in the last semester of the students’ senior year; for these CMITs, becoming CCMs will be a natural and logical progression.”

Dave Conover, CCM, of HDR, 2011 Chairman of CMAA, comments, “Launching the Rising CM Conference is part of a growing CMAA effort to address our industry’s long-term challenges in developing and recruiting the skilled professional workforce we will need. We hope not only to attract young people to the industry but to help them succeed right from the start.”

The conference program will emphasize panel discussions , including panels of industry Senior Executives, recently credentialed Certified Construction Managers (CCMs) and in-career CMITs. Other presentations will address “CMAA - the Professional Community for CM’s” and

“The CM Career Path – CMIT to CCM.” The Saturday program will wrap up with a social period during which attendees can meet and interact with CMAA’s national leadership.

On Sunday, three selected CMAA student chapters will make presentations to their peers; and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will offer a presentation on CMITs and Owner Best Practices for CM’s entering the industry; and, a special workshop will focus on “How to Win the Job.”

“Our goal in launching this new conference is to reach out to industry newcomers and prospective entrants, familiarize them with the career paths and opportunities available in the Construction Management profession, and put them in touch with companies and individuals who can guide them in their early careers,” says CMAA President Bruce D’Agostino, CAE, FCMAA.

Additional information about the Rising CM Conference will be published soon at www.cmaanet.org. Online registration is now open on the website for the CMAA National Conference & Trade Show.

CMAA is North America's only organization dedicated exclusively to the interests of the professional Construction and Program management industry. On behalf of its 32 regional chapters and more than 7,600 public and private organizations and individuals throughout the nation, CMAA promotes professionalism in the Construction Management industry and provides resources, advocacy, professional development, certification, and business opportunities to its members. CMAA's national headquarters is located in McLean, Va. The Association's Web site is www.cmaanet.org.

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