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CII and CMAA Announce Collaboration to Improve America's Construction Industry

The Construction Industry Institute at the University of Texas at Austin, and the Construction Management Association of America (CMAA) have announced that they will collaborate on a series of initiatives designed to improve construction project and program outcomes nationwide.

The joint effort is being launched early in 2010 under the theme: "Best Practices – Best Practitioners."

The two organizations will promote faster, more efficient and higher quality construction by combining CII's research findings, professional development resources and published Best Practices with CMAA's *Construction Management Standards of Practice* (SOP) and the Certified Construction Manager (CCM) program administered by the Construction Manager Certification Institute (CMCI), a subsidiary of CMAA.

"CII has long been dedicated to organizational transformation, and to promoting a culture of high quality execution in construction companies and owner organizations," notes Wayne Crew, Director of CII. "CMAA's emphasis on individual excellence, reflected in its CCM credential and its SOP, is a perfect compliment to CII's mission."

Bruce D'Agostino, President and CEO of CMAA, comments, "CII is dedicated to identifying the factors and practices that make projects succeed, while CMAA devotes itself to identifying and supporting the *people* who deliver those advantages. By working together, CII and CMAA will provide significant value to the entire construction community."

The two organizations will maintain their separate identities and programs while seeking out specific areas in which their collaboration can benefit the entire construction industry. The CI-CMAA Memorandum of Understanding states that their intent is "to form a strategic alliance with the mission to improve delivery of capital facilities in all settings by promoting the professional practice of Construction and Program Management in conjunction with the broadest possible application of recognized industry Best Practices."

CII and CMAA share an interest in benchmarking CM practices and conducting rigorous research to quantify the benefits of professional CM in terms of safety, quality, schedule and cost. For example, CII requires that its published Best Practices must produce measurable, testable and verifiable results.

CMAA has only recently published the first revision of its SOP in six years, incorporating extensive new content. During 2010, this new content will be integrated

with the existing CCM examination and the diverse educational and review programs provided by CMAA to help candidates prepare for the exam.

Among the early activities to be undertaken by the CII-CMAA alliance is a joint review of CMAA's CM "core competencies," as defined in the new SOP, to compare these elements to the relevant CII Best Practices documents. The two organizations will also produce a joint calendar of events and begin investigating areas in which to conduct cooperative original research.

The Construction Industry Institute, based at The University of Texas at Austin, is a consortium of more than 100 leading owner, engineering-contractor, and supplier firms from both the public and private arenas. These organizations have joined together to enhance the business effectiveness and sustainability of the capital facility life cycle through CII research, related initiatives, and industry alliances. CII's website is located at www.construction-institute.org.

CMAA is North America's only organization dedicated exclusively to the interests of the professional Construction and Program management industry. On behalf of its 25 regional chapters and more than 6,000 public and private firms and individuals throughout the nation, CMAA promotes the Construction Management industry and provides professional resources, advocacy, professional development, certification, and business opportunities to its members. CMAA's national headquarters is located in McLean, Va. The Association's website is www.cmaanet.org.

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