

Building Florida

The Voice of Commercial Construction

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COSCAN CONSTRUCTION Builds the Fontainebleau III Ocean Club



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Building Florida

cover story

MARCH/APRIL 2008



26

Coscan
Construction
builds
Fontainebleau III
in Miami Beach

features

Is Your Company Management
Approach
Poised to
Destroy Your
Company?

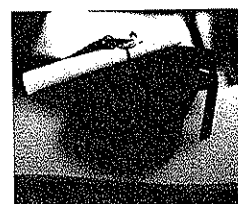
24



By Ted Garrison
President, Garrison
Associates

Essential for
Success in
Construction
Today:
Education

48



By Eric D. Kennedy,
Director, Construction Management Program
Everglades University

Obama's "Patriot" Act 38

Barack Obama's support for something called the Patriot Employer Act, which deserves more attention as an indicator of his economic agenda.

The Mother of All Tax Bills 42

This bill unfairly targets ABC's small and family owned businesses. S Corps, LLC, LLP businesses will absorb the brunt of this bill.



ESSENTIAL CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION,

competent supervisory and management employees will not be abated. The factors that contribute to present and impending shortages of workers in construction are simply “not going away”: the aging of current industry workers; the lack of sufficient numbers of younger entry-level employees (we have too few young workforce entrants to replace the skills and talents of boomer retirees); the growing restrictions on emigration.

In a recent book published by Harvard Business School Press, *Workforce Crisis*, by Ken Dychtwald, Tamara Erickson, and Robert Morison, it is presented that “Education – not just the number of workers, but what they can actually do” is the most serious challenge in coping with workforce needs over the next decade. Recognition of this key consideration was a contributing factor for Everglades University in developing the Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management. It is the education of construction employees that will be key in meeting the workforce demands of the industry, and this degree program purposefully focuses on developing the management skills and competencies of those preparing to be in positions of responsibility and managing construction businesses.

The June, 2007, edition of ABC’s *Construction Executive* carried a very similar piece entitled “A Field of Dreams”, in which two higher education programs were featured that now strive to meet industry educational needs. Everglades University’s Construction Management degree program was among those featured and several salient facts will be repeated here. A not-for-profit

By Eric D. Kennedy
Director, Construction
Management Program
Everglades University

A favorite adage used in the fast-food restaurant business is “success is dependent on three things – location, location, and location”. And, this same saying seems to apply to other sectors of our economy, such as convenience stores, banks, gasoline retailers and others. More and more, today, success for our construction industry is dependent on three essentials, too, “education, education, and education” - for employees at all levels within the organization. Certainly, there have been volumes published over the past several years highlighting the ever-growing workforce crisis in our industry. Notwithstanding the current downturn in the real estate sector, the shortage of skilled crafts people and

S FOR SUCCESS IN CTION TODAY EDUCATION AND EDUCATION

institution offering undergraduate and graduate degree programs for adult learners, EU has campuses in Boca Raton, Orlando, and Sarasota, Florida. The University is accredited by the Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges of Technology (ACCSCT), and is in the application phase and a site visit is scheduled for initial candidacy for accreditation with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). The Bachelor's Degree in Construction Management is offered both on-site at each campus, as well as in an online venue through the Boca Raton Main Campus. The online division has grown rapidly as it meets the needs of mobile construction employees who must move-about during their work assignments. The degree is a 123 credit hour program in which students take 12 credit hours each semester; however, the delivery is structured so that the student takes just one course per month. This delivery has proved very successful in two ways: a.) it allows the student to focus on one subject at-a-time; b) it allows the course work to be accelerated and the degree can be earned in less than four years.

Entry into the Construction Management degree program requires that students have current experience in the construction industry. A growing number of construction industry businesses are sending their employees to enroll. At Everglades University, we are actively soliciting students from contractors and other industry businesses. Again, this program has a deliberate focus on management fundamentals and skills,

construction methods used in residential, commercial and industrial sectors, regulatory and risk elements, legal aspects, safety, and financial procedures and controls. The inclusion of environmental and sustainable building aspects has been incorporated. In fact, Everglades University has become an active participant in the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) in sponsoring LEED workshops. Any prospective student may contact Everglades University by going to our web site at www.evergladesuniversity.edu, or call 561/912-1211, or 888/772-6077 in Boca Raton. Our University is student centered and committed to excellence. Easy to say, but, all efforts at EU are directed to providing each student with the opportunity for personal and professional growth.

Perhaps the most stringent feature of Everglades University's Bachelor of Science Degree in Construction Management is in the selection of instructors. To meet instructor qualifications, each instructor must have a minimum of a Master's degree in a specific discipline. For instance, a minimum of a Master's degree in Building Construction, Construction Engineering, Construction Management, Mechanical, Electrical, Civil or Structural Engineering, MBA, Architecture, and so on. Ph.D. levels of academic qualification are, also, recruited and utilized. In addition, the instructor must have "at least four years experience in the construction industry". This requirement

adds considerable challenge to obtaining a faculty of instructors who can teach these courses. However, the quality level of instruction from the employer's perspective is greatly enhanced, and the benefit to students is very significant. We insist that instructors have construction industry knowledge, as well as subject material knowledge.

Any construction industry participants who may be interested in teaching should contact the Director of Construction Management at 561/912-1211 in Boca Raton, or via email at ekennedy@evergladesuniversity.edu. Those interested in teaching in the online venue may, also, contact the Director.

The Everglades University Construction Management program has an ongoing objective of maintaining "relevance and rigor". And, essential to this objective is the dynamic and ongoing input from those involved in this vital industry. We, therefore, encourage questions and feedback from industry participants. It is our goal to be involved in leading industry organizations, such as the Associated Builders and Contractors. Your input will be greatly welcomed, because three essentials to our success are common to yours, too, "education, education, and education".

