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2020  
Construction  
Careers  
Outcomes  
Report

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Master of Science  
Construction Administration



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# Construction at the Crossroads of the World



This 2020 Construction Careers Outcomes Report showcases a snapshot of the Master of Science in Construction Administration graduates and how they are advancing knowledge with purpose. It also demonstrates how our Career Design Lab (CDL) connects students to the resources and relationships they need to advance, adapt, and accelerate their careers – while they’re here and long after they leave.

The Career Design Lab is strategically located in the heart of New York City to connect our diverse student body with our employer partners, yet as 2020 has proven, location is fluid. The coronavirus pandemic significantly impacted the job search for many of our graduates. For many pursuing careers in construction, they found the market ground to a halt. However, our students are resilient and persevered during this time. The Class of 2020 graduates found employment at a higher rate compared to the year prior and are working at some of the world's most respected architecture, engineering, and construction firms.

Informed by our industry-leading faculty and impressive network of engaged alumni, the Master of Science in Construction Administration at Columbia University School of Professional Studies prepares construction professionals and those in related fields to tackle, lead, and shape the outcome of their built environment.

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# 2020 CNAD Industry Trends

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## Construction Jobs Outlook

The year 2020 will long be remembered for the coronavirus pandemic. Throughout these challenging times, the Columbia University community, including students, faculty, and alumni, have been combating this global health crisis at the front lines.

As our students prepared to graduate from the Construction Administration program in the spring of 2020, the building industry was in the midst of a dynamic and robust boom in private development. The pandemic caused an abrupt disruption in economic activities on many levels.

Early in the shutdown, the construction industry was deemed an essential sector, in part to build the foundation for a public health response to the once in a lifetime public health crisis.

Contractors are hiring. According to industry standard surveys, as many as 60% of firms in the U.S. and 53% of firms in New York had unfilled hourly craft positions in the summer of COVID (as of June 30, 2020). Construction industry jobs continue to pay well. In New York, 5 out of the 5 most numerous construction occupations had higher median pay than the median for all employees in the state in 2019.

During the COVID shutdown, faculty and alumni of the Construction Administration program were, and continue to be, actively involved in the restoration of vital services and the construction of critical health sector facilities. Construction Administration students were directly involved in repurposing spaces to accommodate clinics, testing, and treatment facilities around New York City and across the country. Even the classrooms across the Columbia campus were retrofitted to allow for in-person class engagement in the midst of the global pandemic.

The outlook for construction jobs remains strong, even as there is a shift in emphasis in the types of building that will prevail in the post-COVID era. The Construction Administration program prepares students to be action-ready to step into the fray, making a difference and impacting the built environment.





# 2020 CNAD Industry Trends

## Associated General Contractors of America (AGC) 2020 Annual Report: The Power of Engagement

### Engaging to Succeed

- Construction was declared essential to keep the U.S. building in most parts of the country after 13,000 construction professionals sent 64,000 communications to Congress urging the federal government to keep construction essential.
- AGC worked with Congress to pass key coronavirus tax relief measures, including net operating loss carryback, as well as \$25 billion in tax incentives via the New Markets Tax Credit and Commercial Building Tax Efficiency Credit.
- AGC secured an additional \$56 billion in highway funding relief after 12,000 members sent nearly 66,000 messages to federal leaders urging them to make significant investments in infrastructure.
- **Federal Paycheck Protection Program**
  - Worked to get the administration to fix its eligibility guidelines to ensure construction firms qualified for the loans
  - Clarified through Congress that the loan amounts were not taxable
  - Ensured via a lawsuit we filed on members' behalf that federal officials forgive the loans in an appropriate and transparent manner
- **Water Resources Development Act**
  - \$82 billion for schools with eligibility for construction
  - \$3 billion for Waste Water and Drinking Water Infrastructure

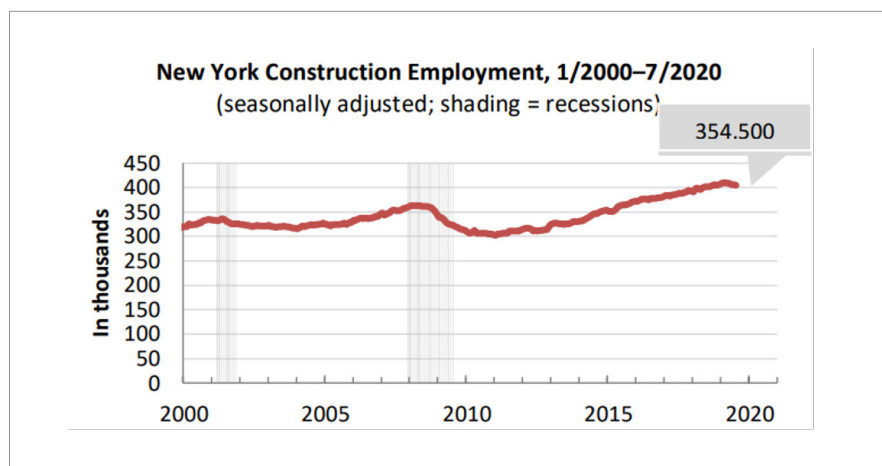
### Engaging to Protect

Twice as many firms participated in 2020 National Construction Safety Week events and activities compared to 2019. AGC of America is a signature supporter of the national safety effort, and worked aggressively to encourage firms to engage in the stand down, which was held in the fall of 2020.

Few aspects of construction were impacted as much by the pandemic as safety operations. Not only did firms have to craft ways to protect workers, but also have the broader obligation of protecting local communities from the spread of the coronavirus. Members were successful in mitigating against occupational spread, in large part because of their engagement with AGC of America. AGC helped members share and learn effective safety procedures, participate in vital safety training programs, and engage in important activities, including two different national safety stand downs.

### Economic Impact of Construction in the U.S. Fact Sheets

- California
- Connecticut
- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- New Jersey
- New York
- Pennsylvania
- Virginia



Source: *Economic Impact of Construction in the U.S. and New York – Fact Sheet*, Associated General Contractors of America

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# CNAD Events

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## Executive Education: Columbia Global Center | Rio de Janeiro and Universidade de Fortaleza

On August 26, 2019 Columbia University's School of Professional Studies welcomed a Brazilian delegation from the Universidade de Fortaleza ("UNIFOR") for a three-day major construction project tour. UNIFOR is one of Brazil's top institutions for education and scientific production.

Designed by the Construction Administration program at the School of Professional Studies and Columbia's Rio de Janeiro Global Center, the study tour engaged the students, faculty and professional advisors in both classroom activities and site visits. The program highlighted the value of Columbia's Global Center by providing UNIFOR with an immersive experience for the exchange of knowledge between Columbia and Brazil.



## Construction Diversity Initiative Breakfast

The Construction Diversity Initiative (CDI) is a first of its kind interdisciplinary research, policy, and training initiative within Columbia University that aims to deploy and transfer knowledge related to improving diversity and inclusion in the region's building industries. Working together, Francisco Pineda, Program Director and faculty member in the Construction Administration program, Tanya Pope, Columbia's Assistant Vice President for Supplier Diversity, and Dr. Renee Sacks, Publisher of Diversity Agenda, designed a new framework for creating positive change and growth for small and medium-sized businesses in construction.

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## Construction Speaker Series: Low-Voltage and Smart Buildings

Columbia University students were treated to an in-depth and engaging panel discussion as part of the "Construction Series: Low Voltage and Smart Buildings." Produced by the Construction Administration program, the Low Voltage panel shared insights and a view of the future of the built environment, how it has changed and will continue to evolve to meet the needs of the market and the ever-changing construction and technology landscapes.

Subject matter experts who contributed their time and shared their experiences are leaders from marquee companies, in both the New York market and around the world. They included: Grace Stecher, Electrical Engineer, Morgan Stanley; Sinan Gunay, Low Voltage Designer, ARUP; Robert Jeffrey Fairbanks, Global Head of IT Operations and Employee Experience, Bloomberg LP; and Luke Repsher, ICT Director, North America, WeWork. Moderating the discussion, with their own distinctive vantage points, were Chris Burke, Columbia faculty member and CEO, Maxus Group; and John Parkinson, Lecturer in Discipline, Construction Administration.

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## Construction Speaker Series – HUDSON YARDS: Development & Construction – Westside Opportunities

Philippe Visser, President of Related Office Development, Hudson Yards Office shared the vision for the newest neighborhood on the west side of Manhattan, what it means to the community, the City of New York and the building industry. A dynamic and engaging panel followed, with key members of the Related team sharing their experiences, roles and responsibilities in the construction and delivery of the most exciting development in recent memory.



# CNAD Events



## 2019 Columbia University and RICS Construction Technology Symposium

Columbia University and the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) hosted the 2019 Construction Tech Symposium to convene owners, constructors, designers, engineers, tech providers, scholars, and students who are currently field-testing and developing some of the industry's leading technology solutions. The Symposium showcased some of the most exciting opportunities as well as challenges faced by project teams combining the power of talent with the power of CONTech. Attendees learned how to identify the current landscape

of emerging construction technologies being adopted by the largest and most sophisticated projects in the market, identify strategies for deploying talent and technologies that ensure final project outcomes are achieved and value is generated for all stakeholders, and consider new and emerging project needs that can be supported by tech solutions on the horizon. Leading experts shared their insights in an engaging and interactive environment that incorporated diverse viewpoints and real-world experiences.



## Insurance & Bonding Workshop Hosted by the Minority & Women Contractors & Developers Association

Being adequately insured and bonded is a critically important part of the process of securing contracts in the construction industry. Experts from Consigli Construction, Levitt-Fuirst Associates, Ltd., and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York shared their insights and advice. Topics included insurance policies currently on the market, common issues M/WBE contractors encounter, and insurance and bonding coverage necessary to qualify for DASNY projects.

Consigli Construction, Levitt-Fuirst Associates, Ltd., and the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York shared their insights and advice. Topics included insurance policies currently on the market, common issues M/WBE contractors encounter, and insurance and bonding coverage necessary to qualify for DASNY projects.

Are You a Next Generation Construction Leader?

Learn more from these experts about an MS in Construction Administration from Columbia University School of Professional Studies can prepare you for a dynamic career in the construction industry.

**Wednesday, May 27<sup>th</sup>**  
**12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. EDT**  
**Zoom Webinar**

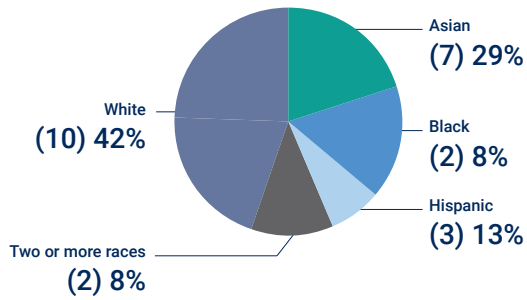
<p><b>Moderator</b></p>  <p><b>Francisco X. Pineda, FRICS</b>          Program Director &amp; Faculty MS in Construction Administration          Columbia University</p>	<p><b>Experts</b></p>  <p><b>Patrick Ashew</b>          Deputy Director The New, Federal One at JFK          Executive Vice President McKissack &amp; McKissack</p>  <p><b>Magalie D. Austin, ESQ.</b>          Senior Advisor and Director New York City Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises</p>  <p><b>Denise Berger</b>          Chief Operating Officer AECOM</p>
 <p><b>Louis J. Colletti</b>          President &amp; CEO Building Trades Employees Association (BTEA)</p>	 <p><b>Ralph Esposito</b>          Managing Director &amp; President Landscape</p>  <p><b>Marcello Valera</b>          Vice President Manhattanville Development Columbia University</p>

## Construction Leadership Seminar: What Are Your Job Prospects Post COVID-19

The Construction Administration program hosted leading construction experts from McKissack & McKissack, NYC Department of Design and Construction, AECOM, Building Trades Employers Association (BTEA), Lendlease, and Columbia University to share their insights and industry intelligence on career prospects in a new construction landscape. As a new construction industry emerges, so will a unique set of employment and growth opportunities. Post COVID-19 will present the need for highly skilled construction management staff who will be challenged to think and operate differently than the past.

# Student Demographics<sup>1</sup>

## Race / Ethnicity



\* Records for Nonresident aliens (17) and Unknown (1) were removed from the racial/ethnic categories

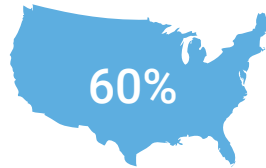
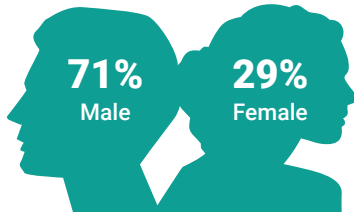


**40%**  
International 2020  
Graduates (17)



**42**  
Total 2020 Graduates

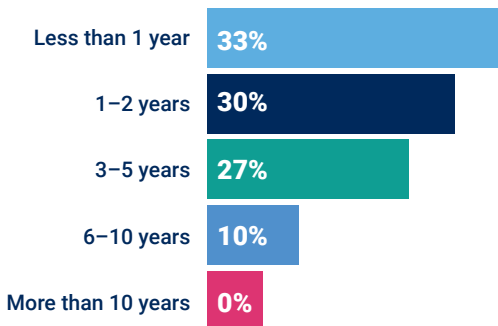
## Gender



Domestic 2020  
Graduates (25)

**29**  
Average Age

## Work Experience



<sup>1</sup> 42 records included from the official SIS graduate table in the Student Information System. All percentages stem from this total unless otherwise specified. Alternative tables are included when all 42 records are not available. Ethnicity is collected based on policy guidelines ([www.ed.gov/policy/rschstat/guid/raceethnicity/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/policy/rschstat/guid/raceethnicity/index.html)). Percentage is rounded to two decimal points where necessary to tie out properly (to 100%).

**24-61**  
Age Range



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# Where are CNAD Graduates Working?

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## Top Global Countries



**USA**  
92%



**Canada**  
4%



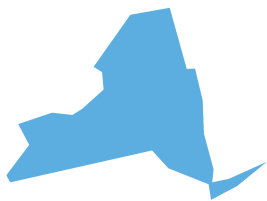
**India**  
4%

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Percentages are out of the 24 graduates who disclosed company location

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## Top Domestic States



**New York**  
86%



**New Jersey**  
9%



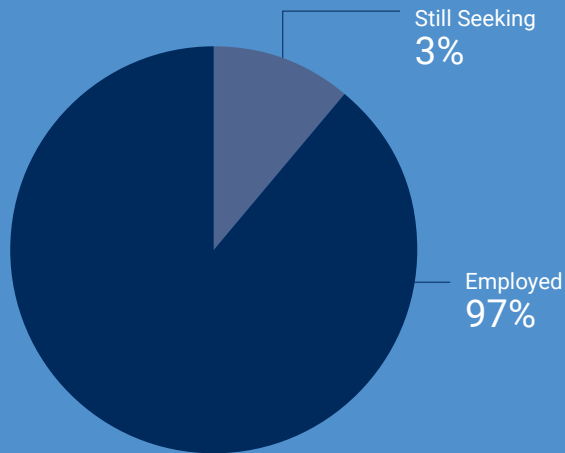
**Washington D.C.**  
5%

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Percentages are out of the 22 graduates who are working in the U.S

# Employment Outcomes

## 97% Career Outcomes<sup>1</sup>



## 74% Knowledge Rate<sup>2</sup>

1 Number of graduates who have landed in any of the employment categories, plus Volunteer Service plus Active Military plus Continuing Education, divided by the number of students for whom an outcome is known.

2 Percentage of the graduating class for which an outcomes destination is known. It includes the sum of all the employment categories, plus Volunteer Service plus Active Military plus Continuing Education plus the number of students Still Seeking an outcome or Not Seeking an outcome. It excludes those students for whom no information is available. Based on 31 students out of 42.

# Post-Graduate Employment by Industry/Sector

Construction	48%
Architecture & Planning	7%
Real Estate	7%
Chemicals	4%
Fine Art	4%
Furniture	4%
Government	4%
Higher Education	4%
Information Technology & Services	4%
Investment Management	4%
Museums & Institutions	4%
Other	4%
Utilities	4%



## Organizations That Employ Class of 2020 CNAD Graduates

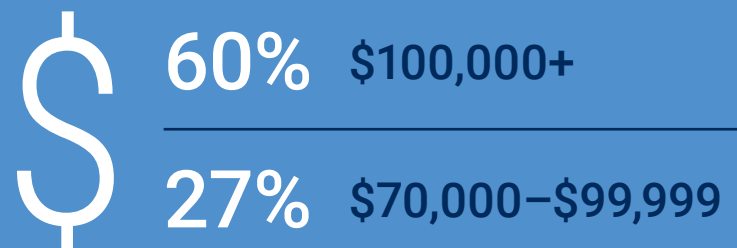
- 33 Group
- Airitan Construction
- Artimus Construction Inc
- Builtech
- Capital Project Management Inc
- Columbia University
- Con Edison
- Department of Homeland Security
- Global Contracting
- HFZ Capital Group
- I Grace Company
- IFF
- Karen Thomas Associates
- KBE-NY
- Kohn Pedersen Fox Associates
- Lazzoni Furniture
- PCL Construction\*
- Ransd Design Inc.
- Rose Associates
- Stellar Services
- The Metropolitan Museum of Art
- Thomas S. Brown Associates, Inc.
- Tower 49 Gallery

\* Employers who employ more than one than one graduate

## Employment Outcomes

### Post-Graduate Salaries

Percentage of Reported Annual Full-Time Salaries of CNAD Graduates



### Job Titles

- Architectural Designer
- Assistant Project Manager
- Commissioning Manager
- Construction Project Manager
- Director
- Facilities Planner/Coordinator
- FEMA Construction Project Manager
- Field Engineer
- Intern
- Managing Partner
- Project Manager
- Project Superintendent
- Senior Global Project Manager
- Senior Rigger
- Sr. HR Business Partner
- Sr. Project Coordinator
- System Administrator
- Owners Representative / Exhibition Director

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# 2020 Student Success Profiles

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**Nithin Rajan**

**Director**  
*Builtech*  
Fall 2019

“Columbia University has equipped me to face the most challenging moments that I come across professionally. All the interactions with the professors and the classmates are my most treasured learnings and I am sure to be inspired by this for years to come. The perspective change that the program brought about in my career has definitely helped me pave a unique and defined pathway for my life. The experience of studying in the middle of the city of New York is just the icing on this cake.”



**Patricia Barakett**

**Project Manager**  
*Karen Thomas*  
*Associates, Inc.*  
Spring 2020

“What attracted me to Columbia's master's degree program in construction administration is its thoughtful, well established pedagogy, and reputation. Columbia was the first Ivy League university to offer a graduate-level program in construction administration. I believe Columbia's efforts to pioneer a program of this caliber raises the bar in terms of the competency and expertise that should be expected from individuals in construction management.

“My decision to pursue the master's degree stemmed from a desire to expand my skill set and gain professional advancement in a field that I am passionate about. Originally, I planned to apply learnings from the program to grow my construction and real estate development company. However, guest speaker Karen Thomas in my Residential Construction class changed all of that. I began as an intern at Karen Thomas Associates (KTA) in summer of 2019 and never left! I'm now a full-time program manager. KTA was founded in 2007 as an owner's representative firm for high-end residential projects throughout the United States and abroad. My work is both challenging and rewarding while we continuously push the limits in residential construction. I can truly say it's a dream job that I never knew existed.

“I cannot emphasize enough the knowledge, connections, and inroads students can gain during the program at Columbia. Professors are eager to share their academic knowledge as well as their real world experiences. They truly want their students to succeed and are invested in making that happen. I am forever grateful to my professors and to Columbia's Construction Management program for the indelible experience and incomparable foundation.”

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# 2020 Student Success Profiles

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**Michael Marzarella**

**Lead Construction  
Superintendent**  
*Pavarini McGovern*  
Spring 2020

“The Construction Administration program accelerated my career trajectory to a distance and direction once unimaginable. Connecting students to the most current and relevant teachings, immediately adding value at the highest of levels within their organizations, CNAD has created lifelong bonds with colleagues and industry professionals that I know I can trust and call on. My deepest appreciation goes out to our program director for being the single most influential mentor and sponsor. With his hands-on methodology, he has genuinely influenced the future of countless students.”



**Andrew Easton**

**Project Manager**  
*PCL Construction*  
Spring 2020

“Attending the SPS Construction Administration program at Columbia University is the single best move I have made in my professional career. My time in this program has allowed me to push my boundaries professionally by leveling up my understanding of, and confidence in, the construction industry.

“The knowledge and connections I have gained from the Construction Administration community continues to drive me. Maintaining involvement within the Columbia SPS community will be an important influence throughout my professional career.”











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COLUMBIA SPS

School of Professional Studies

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Columbia University M.S. in  
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