

---

# 2021 Construction Careers Outcomes Report

---

Master of Science  
Construction Administration



---

# Table of Contents

---

---

<b>Building Resiliency .....</b>	<b>1</b>
----------------------------------	----------

---

<b>2021 Construction Industry Trends.....</b>	<b>2</b>
---	----------

Hiring trends for Career Outcomes 2021 (Fall 2020–May 2021) .....	2
Construction in the field during COVID .....	3

---

<b>CNAD Events .....</b>	<b>4</b>
--------------------------	----------

---

<b>Student Demographics .....</b>	<b>6</b>
-----------------------------------	----------

Graduates .....	6
Race/Ethnicity .....	6
Gender .....	6
Work Experience.....	7

---

<b>Where CNAD Graduates are Working .....</b>	<b>7</b>
---	----------

Top Domestic States .....	7
---------------------------	---

---

<b>Employment Outcomes.....</b>	<b>8</b>
---------------------------------	----------

Career Outcomes.....	8
Knowledge Rate.....	8
Post-Graduate Employment by Industry/Sector .....	8
Organizations That Employ Class of 2021 CNAD Graduates.....	9

---

<b>Post-Graduate Salaries.....</b>	<b>9</b>
------------------------------------	----------

Job Titles.....	9
-----------------	---

---

<b>2021 Student Success Profiles .....</b>	<b>10</b>
--	-----------

---

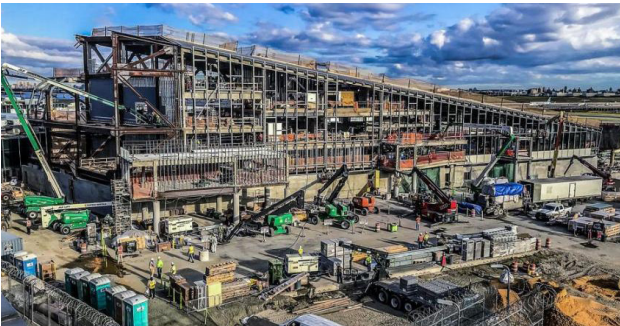
<b>Contact .....</b>	<b>14</b>
----------------------	-----------

---



---

# Building Resiliency



This 2021 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 at the School of Professional Studies of Columbia University 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.

This class graduated during the height of the pandemic when many institutions—and construction sites—were closed. The impact of these shut-downs were tremendous and far-reaching, particularly for graduates entering the world of work. Despite this challenge, over 80% of Construction Administration graduates were employed within six months of graduation. For those who were working full-time while studying, 50% either made a lateral move, transitioned into a new industry, or were promoted after graduation—achievements worth celebrating.

Thanks to industry-leading faculty and a network of engaged alumni, the Master of Science in Construction Administration prepared this class with the tools necessary to overcome obstacles and accomplish their professional goals.

---

# 2021 Construction Industry Trends

---

## Hiring trends for Career Outcomes 2021

(Fall 2020–May 2021)

The construction industry added 60,000 jobs in a recent month, according to the Chief Economist of the Associated General Contractors of America. This growth occurred at the same time as hourly wages rose, at their steepest pace since 1982. This will continue to pressure the construction industry as competition for workers is expected to intensify.

AGC America reported that employment rose across all types of construction firms, and that “nonresidential construction firms added 29,400 employees. That included 19,900 more employees among specialty trade contractors, 7,300 at heavy and civil engineering construction firms, and 2,200 working for general building contractors. Employment in residential construction rose by 31,000 workers, including 24,300 at specialty trade contractors and 6,700 employed by homebuilders and multifamily general contractors.”

The employment outlook remained bright, as the industry re-engaged after a brief pause at the height of the global health crisis. “national nonresidential construction spending was up 1.3% in January, according to an Associated Builders and Contractors analysis of data published by the U.S. Census Bureau. On a seasonally adjusted annualized basis, nonresidential spending totaled \$838.9 billion for the month.”

As an accredited program of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, the M.S. Construction Administration program heeds the guidance of Anil Sawhney, the Director of the Infrastructure Sector for RICS. He recently observed that, “Our sector will continue to face an uncertain operating environment in 2022. In the face of this uncertainty, the industry must address the climate crisis and work towards a net-zero carbon future. The people within our industry and their talent will serve as the fundamental force guiding our industry’s next steps.

As a sector, we are seeing many changes, but our guiding principles must remain unchanged:

- Investing in people with diverse backgrounds and career aspirations
- Promoting “whole-of-life,” “whole-of-asset,” and “whole-of-industry” thinking
- Demanding data-enriched processes and systems for our projects and built assets
- Adopting and adapting superior digital and physical technologies
- Encouraging product and platform thinking across project teams
- Driving horizontal, vertical, and longitudinal integration in our projects and our organizations.”





---

## Construction in the field during COVID

In 2021, the students, alumni, and faculty of the Construction Administration program were actively engaged in critical construction projects throughout the tri-state region, as well as in some of the most transformative projects in New York City.

Students in the Construction Administration program pivoted quickly during the onset of COVID-19. As they graduated in 2021, they were eminently prepared to work, even in the new normal resulting from the lingering effects of the public health crisis.

One of the positive outcomes among the devastation of the global pandemic was having construction declared an essential industry. Despite, or perhaps because of the sharp decline in travelers through the region's airports and mass transit system, many ongoing capital construction projects were accelerated. The Metropolitan Transportation Administration advanced the schedule for projects that would have been disruptive, except for the shortage of transit riders.

The modernization of New York's regional airports also saw significant savings in their schedules. One realized a savings of more than two and a half years!

Construction Administration students, alumni, and faculty were on the job.



# CNAD Events



**May 27, 2020**

## **Construction Project Leadership**

The M.S. Construction Administration program hosted leading construction experts to share their insights and industry intelligence on career prospects in a new construction landscape. Speakers included executives from McKissack & McKissack, NYC Department of Design and Construction, AECOM, Building Trades Employers Association, and Lendlease.

**July 9, 2020**

## **Building Succession Planning & Exit Strategies for Construction Executives**

The M.S. Construction Administration program hosted leading experts as they shared their insights and intelligence on how to build an effective succession planning and exit strategy for owners and executives of construction companies. This session helped construction company owners and executives through ESOP (Employee Stock Ownership Plan) to manage the sales process, save taxes, raise capital, manage succession planning, and create wealth for both owners, executives, and employees.



**August 11, 2020**

## **Sustainability Post-Covid 19: Designing + Building for the Future**

The M.S. Construction Administration program at Columbia University School of Professional Studies and WSP hosted leading experts as they shared their insights and intelligence on how to design and build with sustainability in mind post-COVID-19.

**October 13, 2020**

## **SPS Virtual Career and Networking Fair**

The M.S. Construction Administration program and the Career Design Lab at Columbia University School of Professional Studies hosted talent teams from JLS Cost Management Systems, Omnibuild, Precision Engineering & Contracting, Inc., and Suffolk Construction to network with students, alumni, and discuss various opportunities.



**October 13, 2020**

## **Estimating & Blueprint Workshop**

M.S. Construction Administration faculty Jason Levine, MRICS from Omnibuild, and Mark Hildreth from Pavarini McGovern led Blueprint Reading and Estimating Boot Camp. This session supplemented an individual's understanding of blueprint reading and provided further skills needed for courses within the Construction Administration program.

The bootcamp utilized estimating techniques such as takeoffs to better help understand the nuances of construction blueprint reading such as following through the associated scales, symbols, elevations, sections, details, schedules, etc. Estimating was also used as a backdrop to understand the trades and scopes of work.

**October 29, 2020**

## **Leadership in a Time of Global Crises: Passion, Practice and Resilience**

The School of Professional Studies launched the Climate Careers Symposium, a series of talks and panels offering diverse perspectives on the ways in which the careers of the future will be influenced by global-scale challenges. The first session featuring faculty from the M.S. Construction Administration program explored the impact of a changing climate on the shifting landscape for careers in urban planning, public health, and social equity.

**December 1, 2020**

## **The AEC Supply Chain as a Strategic Partnership**

Francisco X. Pineda, Academic Program Director of Columbia's M.S. in Construction Administration program, joined experts and industry participants including Lecturer Sadia Janjua, who serves as the Port Authority's Chief of Program & Project Controls and Virtual Design & Construction, to discuss strategic partnerships and teaming including project delivery, technical support, and organizational development frameworks for the built environment supply chain.

**December 11, 2020**

## **Overcoming Challenges through Public-Private Partnerships**

Columbia University faculty member John Parkinson facilitated a conversation regarding "Silver Linings for Construction during the COVID Crisis" at the P3C Media's #P3Government Conference. Catherine Sheridan, State of NY Metropolitan Transportation Authority Transformer, and Peter Chorman, Delta Air Lines's General Manager of Construction and Real Estate, discussed the underlying benefits to major



capital programs, including accelerating projects for the busiest transit system in the country and advancing the schedule for the modernization of LaGuardia Airport.

### **December 16, 2020**

## **Careers in Project Management and Owner Representation**

The ORPM Alliance is a community of like-minded professional Owner's Representative and Project Management firms who serve a diverse range of client constituencies within the design and construction industries. ORPM panelists representing JLS Cost Management Systems, Inc., CBRE, and Turner & Townsend each have distinguished careers, in which they have led teams on many noteworthy projects and assumed key positions on the client and service provider side. By sharing their unique professional backgrounds, diverse range of roles and thoughts on the current market conditions, attendees gained insight and knowledge if they work within or are considering a career in the ORPM profession.

### **January 13, 2021**

## **Is There a Future for Infrastructure Mega-Projects?**

The Global Infrastructure Hub and the Columbia University School of Professional Studies hosted a panel discussion of infrastructure, exploring the future of large-scale urban infrastructure projects. The discussion centered on the challenges of mega-projects and how government and industry have been responding, including the evolution of mega-infrastructure projects, the maturity of project delivery methods, the role of resiliency and sustainability, and case studies where government and industry have adapted to deliver the increasing size of public works infrastructure projects. Speakers represented MTA Capital Construction, McKissack & McKissack, Acciona, and Steer.



### **February 25, 2021**

## **VDC's Role in Construction Technology**

The M.S. Construction Administration program's distinguished faculty representing Jacobs, Gilbane, and Tishman Construction, discussed the role of Virtual Design and Construction (VDC) in the construction industry.

### **March 8, 2021**

## **Building Blocks for Sustainability**

Metropolitan regions are characterized by their complex reciprocities between technology and people, nature and culture, with incoming and outgoing flows of energy, water, resources, and materials. They account for 70% of global GDP and an even larger share of GHG emissions and waste. New technology, reconfigured supply chains, transportation networks, architectural and engineering solutions, and other trends are changing how we think about sustainability and climate change adaptation at strategic and local levels. Today, more than ever, there is a demand to treat sustainability as a significant and strategic value driver that ensures the needs of the present without compromising the security and prosperity of future generations. Columbia University School of Professional Studies wanted to meet this need by contributing to the holistic perspectives and interdisciplinary conversations featuring M.S. Construction Administration faculty that explored the ideas and building blocks of delivering a more sustainable and equitable built environment.

### **March 25, 2021**

## **Project Controls at the Center of Modernizing Construction**

The M.S. Construction Administration program featured distinguished faculty representing the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, and Columbia University about the role of project controls in the construction industry.



### **June 23, 2021**

## **Careers of the Future**

The M.S. Construction Administration program and the construction industry's leading human resources professionals from Holt Construction, NYC Department of Design and Construction, Gilbane, AECOM, Holder Construction, Burns & McDonnell Aviation & Federal Group, Meaningful Communications Matter, CCR-USA, and AV Air Pros hosted "Careers of the Future: Who are companies hiring? Where is the best talent going? How should you chart your career?"

Attendees gained important information on what types of skills and education the top human resources professionals are looking for when interviewing potential candidates. In turn, owners, general contractors, design professionals and subcontractors gained a better understanding of how to recruit, retain, and develop new talent to meet changing project needs.

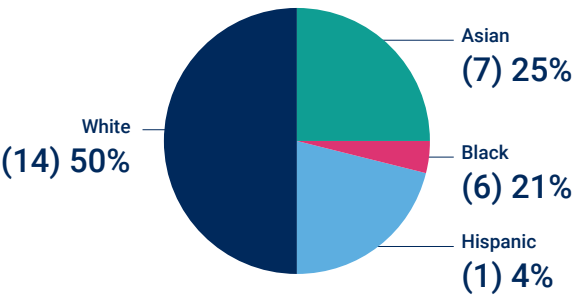
# Student Demographics<sup>1</sup>

21% 2021 International Graduates (9)

5 continents

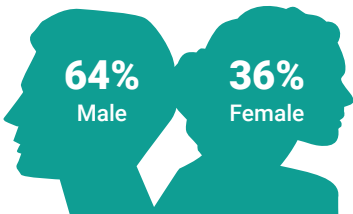


## Race / Ethnicity

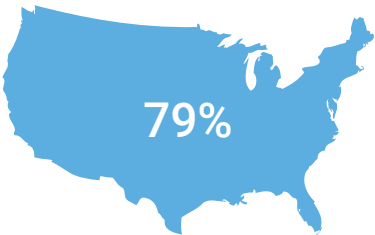


\*Records for Nonresident aliens (5) were removed from the racial/ethnic categories

## Gender



## 2021 Domestic Graduates (24)



<sup>1</sup> \*33 records included from the official graduate table in the Student Information System. All percentages stem from this total unless otherwise specified. Alternative tables are included when all 33 records are not available. Ethnicity is collected based on policy guidelines ([nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes](https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/report-your-data/race-ethnicity-collecting-data-for-reporting-purposes)). Some percentages may not round out to 100% due to decimals.

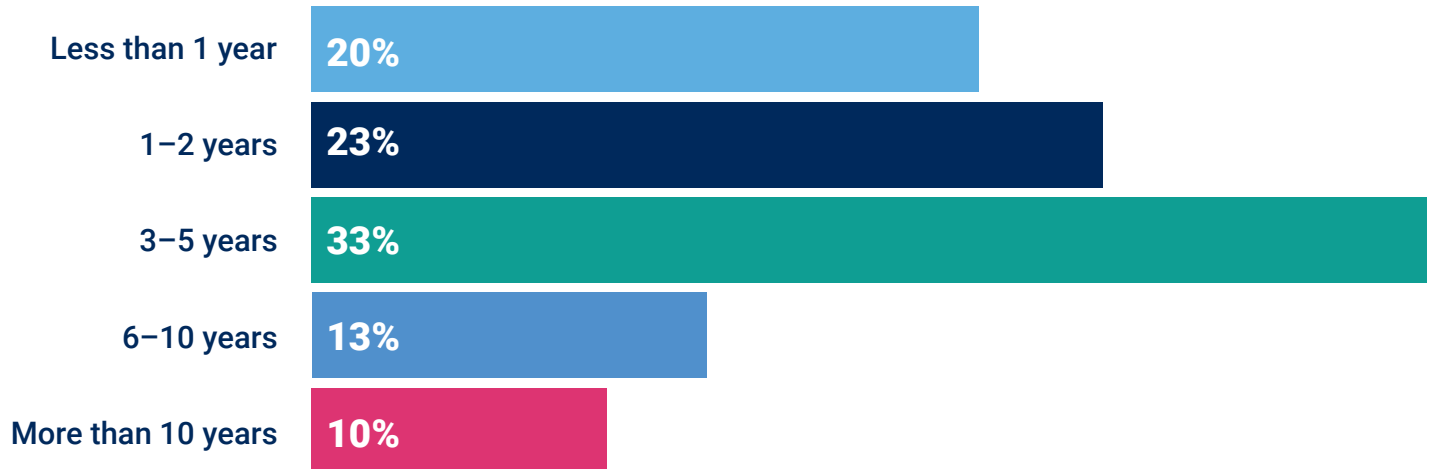
## 16 countries

- Canada
- Chile
- China
- Cyprus
- Georgia
- Germany
- India
- Indonesia
- Israel
- Jamaica
- Lebanon
- Pakistan
- South Korea
- Sudan
- Thailand
- USA



---

## Work Experience



---

33  
Total 2021 Graduates

32  
Average Age

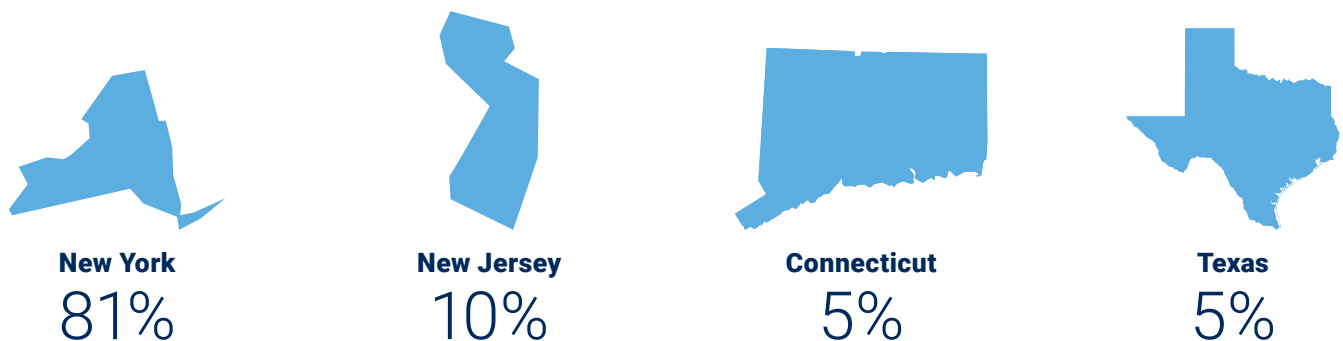
25–54  
Age Range

---

## Where CNAD Graduates are Working

---

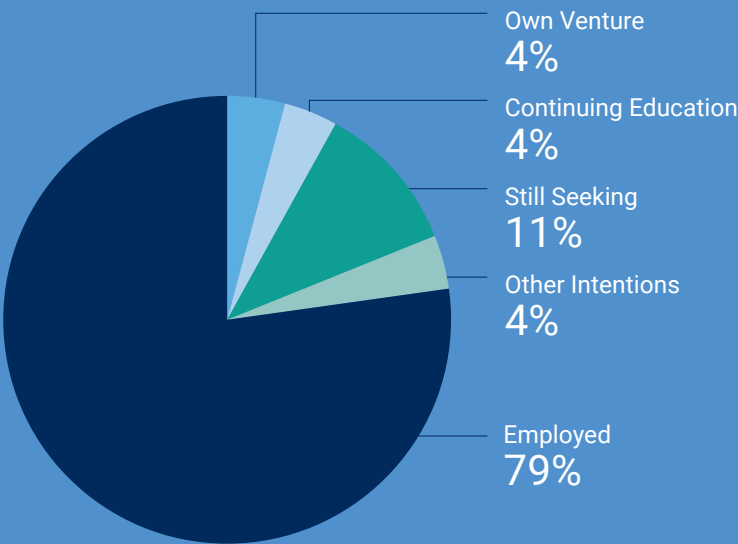
### Top Domestic States



Percentages are out of the 21 graduates who are working in the U.S

# Employment Outcomes

## 86% Career Outcomes<sup>1</sup>



## 85% Knowledge Rate<sup>2</sup>

1 Number of graduates who have landed in any of the employment categories, plus Own Venture plus Research 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 Own Venture plus Research 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 28 students out of 33.

## Post-Graduate Employment by Industry/Sector





## Organizations That Employ Class of 2021 CNAD Graduates

AECOM

Anheuser-Busch InBev

CM & B

Gilbane Building Co

Greyhome Partners

Jacobs

JR Construction Corp.

Metro Real Estate Development

New Line Structures

New York City Transit

Rael National

Roomrs

STV\*

TDX Construction Corporation

The Alpert Group

Triton Construction

Turner & Townsend

Turner Construction Management\*

Uptown Houston District

Winsor Consult Group

*\*Employers who employ more than  
one graduate*

## Post-Graduate Salaries

Percentage of Reported Annual  
Full-Time Salaries of CNAD Graduates

\$ **50%** **\$100,000+**

\$ **27%** **\$98,063**

### Job Titles

- Assistant Construction Manager
- Assistant Project Manager
- Assistant Superintendent
- Construction Superintendent
- Electrical Engineer
- Engineer
- Field Engineer
- Founder & CEO
- Interior Design Project Management
- Junior Architect
- Mentor Project Officer
- Project Analyst
- Project Engineer
- Project Manager
- Project Manager 2
- Project Officer
- Property Manager
- Scheduler
- Senior Manager - Facilities
- Vice President

---

# 2021 Student Success Profiles

---



**Constantine Bournias**

**Assistant Project Manager**  
*AECOM Leeding  
Builders Group*  
Spring 2021

"My time at Columbia enabled me to develop my professional skill set and advance my education, all while complementing my full-time career. The program allowed me to balance my schedule and make the most of a master's level education. It broadened my view on the opportunities afforded by our industry and helped me realize how my knowledge can propel my professional goals. I cherish the time I spent in my classes, all instructed by highly regarded experts in the field. I was able to make excellent connections with my colleagues in this profession and learn from their successes and experiences as well. While working full time, I was able to contribute more to my project, and compare the information I learned at work to my classes. The curriculum in this master's program challenged me to push my boundaries and become more competent in this expertise. I appreciate the time I spent as a Columbia student, and will proudly carry the name into my professional career as an alumnus."

---



**Claire Mo**  
RA, MSc, CMIT

**Project Manager**  
*HNTB*  
Spring 2021

"I came to the Construction Administration program to be part of an experienced community, where we share areas of expertise and grow a network among industry leaders. As part of 2% of the construction industry being Asian, I became aware of the challenges ahead for ethnic women. In the past, regardless of how my portfolio of projects advanced in complexity and size, seeking a leading role would mean starting a company from scratch, because the company deemed my 'image is not a fit' or 'someone else must have done the work you claimed'."

"The Columbia program systematically trained me, and helped me develop custom areas that I needed strengthening. The networking events with organizations such as DBIA and CMAA helped develop areas of my strength with a focus in hospitality and infrastructure. Along with 3 years of field management 'externship' positions during part-time schooling, I aligned with accredited institutions and mentors, acquired certifications, and captured proper credits from past experiences. The network support equipped me with leadership opportunities in my area of focus and I landed a dream job projecting into a bright future ahead."

---



**Darby Kline**  
RA, LEED AP

**Senior Project Manager**  
*DBI Projects*  
Spring 2021

"Columbia's Construction Administration program not only solidified a project management skillset that I learned informally throughout my professional experience, but it also expanded my perspective on the complexities of development and construction."





**Sandae Tait**

**Engineer**

*Turner Construction*

"My experience at Columbia University SPS has been the most impactful in my professional life. I experienced faculty and staff who worked tirelessly to provide unmatched support and resources to students for professional development. The Construction Administration program and SPS organized several social networking events where I connected with industry professionals who have been positively impacting my growth. At Columbia, I was consistently surrounded by brilliant minds, whether in the classroom or at social events, who have instilled a desire for continuous development and helping others grow."



**Elizabeth  
Mayo-Chancey**

**Vice President**

*JR Construction Corp.  
Spring 2021*

"I completed my degree in Construction Administration in the middle of one of the biggest global challenges we've faced in recent memory. I had initially joined the program as a way to solidify my knowledge in a new career, but the degree has come to mean so much more than just a piece of paper. The classwork and partnerships we formed created a camaraderie amongst my classmates and professors that grew out of this enormous crisis. I'm forever thankful to have had that support during this time."

"This program also gave me the confidence to help steer our company through the last two years. The nitty gritty of the order of operations, the cost controls, the market variations -- all the parts of actually putting a project from plan to execution were made much clearer for me during the program. This knowledge also helped our small business maneuver through all the market volatility, supply chain issues, and labor constraints we faced. I also felt my professors encouraged my passion for bringing better communication to an industry that is in dire need of better understanding."

"John Parkinson said something in the Capstone class that I'll keep with me forever: The work is important, but construction at its heart is a human business. None of this can happen without people. Working in interior renovations, that wisdom has helped us shift towards putting our employee and customer relationships at the forefront. This has naturally resulted in more referrals and larger contracts because we've earned our crew's and our customer's trust."

"Without a doubt, I could not have reached this moment in my career without the Construction Administration program. My hope is that I'm able to inspire other builders, especially women, and pass along what I've learned to a new generation."











---

### **School of Professional Studies**

203 Lewisohn Hall  
2970 Broadway, Mail Code 4119  
New York, NY 10027-6902



**COLUMBIA SPS**

School of Professional Studies

---

### **Contact Us**

[construction@sps.columbia.edu](mailto:construction@sps.columbia.edu)  
212-854-9666

---

### **Join Our Community**

[sps.columbia.edu](http://sps.columbia.edu)



Columbia University M.S. in  
Construction Administration