



Interstate 29/35 Connections Project
103 W. 26th Ave.
North Kansas City, MO 64116

816.841.8888
www.kcicon.com

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For more information, contact:
Jennifer Benefield: 816.509.2561 (mobile)
Laura Wagner: 816.519.7225 (mobile)

kcICON Project Team Member Receives 2010 Rosa Parks Award

Jontell Jones honored for championing workforce diversity

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – kcICON Project team member Jontell Jones was bestowed the 2010 Rosa Parks Award at the Metro Organization for Racial and Economic Equity’s (MORE²) fifth annual Imagine Banquet. The event was held Thursday, June 10, 2010 at the Hyatt Regency Crown Center.

MORE² Executive Director Mary Lim-Lampe states, “On December 1, 1955, an unknown seamstress in Montgomery, Alabama refused to give up her seat on a bus to a white passenger. So began the Civil Rights Movement when Rosa Parks was arrested and fined for violating a city ordinance. Her single act of defiance has represented courage that ended legal segregation in America and made her an inspiration to freedom-loving people everywhere. MORE²’s Rosa Parks Award is given to individuals or companies who exemplify the courage to stay the course and change the inequity in the metro area.”

Just over two years ago, Jones, 28, with two children, was working construction jobs that paid cash and provided no benefits. Jones was then hired by Paseo Corridor Constructors to participate in the On-the-Job Trainee Program offered through the Missouri Department of Transportation’s kcICON Project.

MoDOT provides up to \$1.25 million for kcICON Project workforce training. This training is designed to create opportunities that will grow a more diverse workforce in the Kansas City region and to increase the number of minority, female and economically disadvantaged individuals working across the state of Missouri. There are currently 35 On-the-Job Trainees employed on the kcICON Project. Jones is one of 14 individuals to date who have graduated from the program.

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Jones, now a Quality Assurance Technician, has completed over 2,000 hours of training in heavy highway construction. During his acceptance speech, Jones said, “It feels good to go from having a job to having a career.”

Jones thanked MORE², MoDOT and the supervisors and co-workers at Paseo Corridor Constructors who have guided him through the training process. “I am grateful for the support I have received on the project, and grateful to be able to represent others, like myself, in the community who can excel if given the chance.”

The \$245 million kcICON project will reconstruct/rehabilitate 4.7 miles of Interstate 29/35 from just north of Route 210/Armour Road in North Kansas City into the northeast corner of the downtown Kansas City, Mo. freeway loop. The project includes improving outdated interchanges and the construction of the Christopher S. Bond Bridge – a new landmark, cable-stay Missouri River Bridge. Additional information is available on the project’s Web site: www.kcicon.com or on [facebook](https://www.facebook.com/kciconproject) “kcICON Project.”

Editor’s Note: Listen to a podcast at: <http://www.modot.org/modotpodcast/index.htm>



Jontell Jones (center) receives the Rosa Parks Award presented June 10, 2010 by MORE² co-chairs Rev. Dr. Bobby Love, Sr. of Second Baptist of Olathe (left) and Rev. Dr. Ron Brooks (right) of the Grand Avenue Temple. Also pictured Rev. Margaret Roberts with MORE². Photo: Laura Wagner, Paseo Corridor Constructors