

(Cont. from page 2) 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 15 individuals to date who have graduated from the program.

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."

After receiving the award, 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."



*Jontell Jones stands with his award outside the ballroom at the Hyatt following the banquet on June 10, 2010.*

### ***The ASLA bestows design unbuilt award on kcICON Project***

The kcICON Project has received an American Society of Landscape Architecture-Central States Design Merit Award. The design (un-built) award recognizes the team for its aesthetic enhancement and context sensitive design solutions; integration of the architectural identity of the new signature Christopher S. Bond Bridge into the overall aesthetic character of related corridor improvements, and engagement of key stakeholders and communities in a collaborate design and review process. The award was presented April 23, 2010 in Oklahoma City, OK.



### ***Driving Safely Through the kcICON Corridor***

Keep our work zones safe by following these simple rules:

*Expect the unexpected:* Watch for shifting traffic lanes, road closures, and people working on or near the roadway.

*Pay attention:* Roadway conditions change every day, so dedicate your full attention to driving, and don't use mobile phones or engage in other distracting activities while driving.

*Follow signs:* Warning signs and posted speed limits are there to help you and other drivers move safely through the work zone.

*Be patient:* Crews are working to improve the road to make your drive better. Allow other motorists to merge into traffic and avoid frequent lane changes while driving through the work zone.

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*Maintain safe distances:* The most common crash in a highway work zone is a rear-end collision, so don't tailgate. Also, remember to keep a safe distance between your vehicle and the construction workers and equipment.

*Allow extra time:* Expect delays and leave early so you can reach your destination on time. Before leaving, check the kcICON Construction Schedule for regular updates at [www.kcicon.com](http://www.kcicon.com) for lane drops and traffic pattern changes.

### **The Third Largest Country in the World**

*Twitter...Facebook...YouTube stats and why social media is here to stay.*

June 30 is now "Social Media Day." Not because anyone who actively uses social media outlets needs a special day to do it. But this special day is meant to bring awareness to the fact that social media is a new presence with which to be reckoned. While English teachers everywhere blame text messaging and Twitter for the downfall of grammar, phone manufacturers are keeping the texting and uploading platforms in mind for the next generation of gadgetry. Large corporations and burgeoning small businesses are now on Facebook (along with the kcICON Project!) Since the first person complained online about poor service at a particular company, companies everywhere have been monitoring the Internet, trying to figure out how to get into the conversation too.

Social media is...well, social. This is an online way for people to communicate. It more closely resembles how casual conversation looks and sounds, which is why it has become one of the most popular and fastest growing methods of reaching others since the invention of the

telephone. If Facebook was a country, and each member of Facebook was a citizen, Facebook would be the third most populous country in the world, (with China being first and India being second.)

If you haven't Twittered, or posted a video to YouTube, or (for gosh sakes) opened a Facebook account, give it a go. You won't be breaking new ground, but you will be able to take part in the online, ongoing conversation that is here to stay. Have your say! Get online today.



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