Keith McCray is enjoying life. He has a career he likes. He has family and friends happily working in a related field. And he has time and money to travel to places he never thought he’d see. Six years after graduating from high school, Keith is a first-line crew leader—a leadman—at MAREK, on a career path that could take him to management in the construction industry. Construction is one of the fastest-growing sectors of the Houston regional economy. More than 43,000 new construction positions will be created across Houston in the next seven years—and Houston can’t be built from behind a desk.

“Someone in high school who wants to get into the industry, I would say just do it,” Keith advised. “Construction is an open industry, especially in Houston, and it’s very rewarding.”