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Critical Issues Analysis
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Executive Summary

The PACE Roundtable held on October 13, 2005 was a very good place to hear about the issues that are affecting construction. It allowed an open forum for students and industry people to get together and discuss problems, expectations and the future of the construction industry. There was a chance to go to two breakout sessions and group discussion on team building and the Katrina resultants.

I went first to the discussion on integration. In it, the topics of performance specifications, value engineering, design assist, and early subcontractor involvement were discussed. Here, things like the issues with incomplete construction drawings were looked at to see where improvements could be made. By involving project teams earlier or utilizing design assist options less change orders due to a lack in system cohesion. Another thing that would be gained by bringing contractors on earlier is better value engineering.

For the second session I attended a dialogue on team unity. This session covered owner and design professional motivation, personal skills, and contractor prequalification. All of these topics are oriented toward how a project team can learn to work together well to get a project completed. By finding a section of the team's drive, one can learn how to deal with them and what is really important. Contractor prequalification also helps teams work well together because it forces all members to be proficient for their jobs. This allows for more trust in team members.

The team building and Katrina also gave insight in to the workings of the construction industry. One showed the importance of making good teams. The other expanded on possible changes to the construction industry over the next few years with respect to construction techniques, work loads, work availability and material prices was a huge advantage.