## **INDUSTRY LEADERS** of Southwestern Illinois

**For all businesses, this has been a year** of constant adaptations to unprecedented challenges. But for Contegra Construction Co., it has also been a year of capitalizing on the firm's talent and capacity to build for a changing world. That is especially true in the industrial market.

For about the past seven years, Contegra has worked closely with local and national end users and leaders in development and logistics to fine tune our proficiencies in building distribution centers that efficiently serve the massive shift to e-commerce. COVID-19 has put a premium on the foundation in place for "last-mile logistics," expediting delivery to end-users.

Even more importantly, we see the St. Louis area poised to capitalize on an anticipated need to shorten supply lines, increasing warehousing locally for distribution within a day's drive from St. Louis. All of the region's robust assets play into this changing world. That includes our center-of-the country location and our river, rail, road and air cargo transportation assets.

Contegra's recently completed and current projects reflect this adaptation to the changing world. They include:

• The debut of a 544,000-square-foot warehouse, the first distribution facility at Northpoint Development's Gateway Tradeport in Pontoon Beach. Contegra is now engaged in building a second warehouse at the development.

• A 594,000-square-foot bulk storage warehouse for Tristar Properties at Gateway Commerce Center.

• The 2019 completion of the largest industrial project in the region – two facilities totaling more than two million square feet for World Wide Technology at Gateway Commerce Center.

We applaud the promotional work of the St. Louis Regional Freightway, which recently noted a strong Interstate 70 corridor of industrial projects linking Illinois and Missouri. But we note that competing Midwestern cities are also adapting to the changing world. Contegra recently broke ground on a 320,000-square-foot speculative warehouse in Columbus, Ohio, and last year completed a 765,000-square-foot warehouse at Logistics Park Kansas City in Edgerton, Kan.

All of these warehouses demand a skilled workforce to operate and maintain them. There has long been a shortage of warehouse workers. That's a competitive issue that must be addressed.

Other projects of note by Contegra include the recently completed 367,000-square-foot new headquarters and manufacturing facility for Melton Machine &

Control Co. in Washington, Mo., the 17,100-square-foot HSHS Medical Group clinic in Edwardsville, and a 126,350-square-foot warehouse for Jung Trucking in Mount Vernon, Ill., both due to be completed this fall. In addition, among our growing aviation industry projects are a number of improvements to MidAmerica St. Louis Airport, including three 9,600-square-foot temporary hangers, an 8,400-square-foot temporary office and training facility, a 1,300-square-foot airport firehouse expansion and other upgrades.

As Contegra advances work on its industrial, office, multifamily and other projects, we are continually refining and improving safety on job sites – especially with the threat of COVID-19. We are protecting workers during the pandemic with personal protective gear, handwashing stations and other essentials. The Southern Illinois Builders Association recently honored Contegra with the Excellence Award for four years without a lost-time accident.

One thing that hasn't changed is Contegra's commitment to supporting local charities. Our Contegra Cares initiative helps



orchestrate financial contributions and volunteering to support Ronald McDonald House, Pedal for the Cause, Backstoppers, St. Louis Children's Hospital's KIDstruction program and other charitable endeavors.

Eric Gowin, Founder Contegra Construction Co.





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## (618) 931-3500 www.contegracc.com

