PHRC Report #32: Course Manual for Computer-Based Cost Estimating

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BACKGROUND:

A 1992 NAHB study determined that only two out of five builders who have personal computers are using them for cost estimating. Many builders are skeptical of the benefits and savings that can be achieved through the use of computer-based cost estimating. In addition, hesitancy regarding computer-based cost estimating exists because of the perceived costs and complexity involved with purchasing and operating the hardware and software necessary for successful utilization of a computerized estimating system. At present, no Graduate Builder Institute (GBI) course addresses this topic and its associated misconceptions related to costs and complexity.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS:

Using PHRC Research Series Report #26: Technology Transfer Manual for Computer-Based Cost Estimating as a reference document, PHRC Research Series Report #32: Course Manual for Computer Based Cost Estimating was developed for the Pennsylvania Builders Association for use as an advanced GBI course.

WHAT IT MEANS TO YOU:

This course assists builders by providing an introduction to computer-based estimating terminology and by providing the elementary steps needed to construct a database and the work packages for use in taking off and costing an estimate. This course also provides guidelines for buying cost estimating software.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Implementation of this course by the Pennsylvania Builders Association on a state-wide level.