

#### LETTER FROM TXAPA PRESIDENT JASON EXUM

As 2023 TXAPA President, I am excited to share an accounting of our work for you. It was an honor to serve alongside the many dedicated men and women of the Texas Asphalt Pavement Industry and it is humbling to see in print the size, and the scope of the undertaking and the many successes we share because of our partnering spirit. Our achievements in workforce development and scholarship fundraising are two things among many that are near and dear to me. This report covers the priorities as set forth in the Strategic Planning session held at the end of every year for the coming year. The TXAPA Board of Directors and Committee Chairs participate in the session, and we work diligently to be representative of the Association's membership at large. TXAPA is a member-driven organization, and its staff and member leaders are always mindful of our duty to you and our industry. I grew up in this industry and it has been very meaningful to work together with my fellow members to make a difference. I thank you for the opportunity and wish you a blessed 2024.



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#### *2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

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Mike Brown
TEXAS MATERIALS GROUP, INC.
NAPA STATE DIRECTOR

# TXAPA AT-A-GLANCE

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

AMOUNT RAISED

\$816,000

NUMBER OF SCHOLARSHIPS:

41

PARTNERS IN QUALITY

*18/20/860* 

PIO MEETINGS STATEWIDE DISTRICTS SERVED TXDOT AND TXAPA Participated



252 REGULAR 67

**ASSOCIATE** 

14

MAJOR ASSOCIATE

#### NEW MEMBERS

13 ASSOCIATE 3 REGULAR 1 MAJOR ASSOCIATE

#### AWARDS PROGRAMS

STYDOT-TY APA

TxDOT-TXAPA QUALITY ASPHALT AWARD WINNERS 9

NAPA QUALITY IN CONSTRUCTION AWARD WINNERS 6 ION A EPP

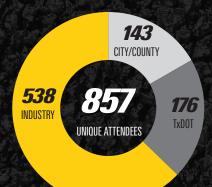
DR. JON A. EPPS QUALITY SEAL COAT AWARD WINNERS 4

TECHNICIAN OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNERS

#### EVERYDAY ASPHALT

EPISODES

1,131



ASPHALT EDUCATION SERIES

155 THREE-WEEK COURSES
INSPECTOR
ASPHALT EDUCATION

ENGINEER ASPHALT ESSENTIALS

135

#### YEAR IN REVIEW

JAN Bailey Method Mix Design

Course, Buda, TX

**TXAPA Website Launch** 

FEB Membership Meeting

and Winter Classic Golf Tournament, Fort Worth, TX

MAR Workforce Rangers Kick-Off

Training, Buda, TX

**APR** 6<sup>TH</sup> Annual Asphalt

Road-eo, Buda, TX

MAY 4<sup>TH</sup> Annual MAPS Conference

and Trade Show, Waco, TX

JUN Sustainability Workshop:

EPDs, Buda, TX

HMAC Scholarship Graduates First Class

JUL "I Built This" Marketing

Campaign Launch

**AUG** Asphalt Education: HEB Facilities

Management and Construction

Personnel, Buda, TX

**SEPT** 48<sup>TH</sup> TXAPA Annual Meeting

Raised 816k for the TXAPA Scholarship

Inaugural Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

**OCT** Women of Asphalt Regional

Event, Fort Worth, TX

Highway Construction Workforce Partnership Graduates First Class

**NOV** Annual Strategic Planning

Session, Buda, TX

**DEC** Women of Asphalt Ideas

That Lead & Inspire, TXAPA Open House and Christmas

Party, Buda, TX



# THE YEAR OF NEXT-LEVEL PARTNERSHIP

2023 was truly the year of Next-Level Partnership. Our industry continues to evolve, and as we grow, and our opportunities increase, so do our challenges. More than ever, we recognize that these are opportunities and challenges we share. There are multiple stakeholders as the asphalt industry continues its upward trajectory embracing new technologies, meeting the demand for workforce, ensuring our commitment to sustainability, and through it all, holding ourselves to the highest standards of quality. In 2023 as in no other year, we have exemplified the spirit of partnership TXAPA members have long held as a core value.

## TEXAS ASPHALT PAVEMENT QUALITY INITIATIVE

The Asphalt Pavement Quality Initiative is a prime example of partnership. The initiative is a joint effort of TXAPA member firms, TxDOT, the AGC Texas Chapter (AGC), and our academic partners at the Texas A&M Transportation Institute (TTI) and universities statewide. It consists of three working groups: Heavy Duty Pavement Design, Balanced Mix Design, and Liquid Asphalt. As the Texas population continues its exponential growth, all three groups play a substantial role ensuring our industry remains competitive through design, materials, construction, and maintenance innovations. Some of these innovations include the implementation of Flexible Pavement System 23 (FPS23), overseen by the Heavy Duty Pavement Design Working Group. FPS23 includes improved design capabilities and enhanced accuracy for calculating heavy-duty pavement lifespan. The Balanced Mix Design Working Group has now collected data from 33 test sections placed by TXAPA members statewide. The information gathered from

these sections will further the ability of asphalt mixtures to withstand the tests of traffic, weather, and time like never before. The Liquid Asphalt Working Group made tremendous progress in 2023, synchronizing quality standards industry-wide to foster uniformity, create accountability, and ensure liquid asphalt consistency. Supporting all these efforts is the TXAPA Education Series for inspectors and engineers. In 2023, TXAPA equipped professionals from TxDOT, cities, counties, industry, and the private sector with invaluable knowledge to perform their duties at the next level.

The TxDOT spec book revision was an occasion to optimize agency-industry partnership with enhanced communication and fruitful collaboration. Seeking industry perspective on the proposed updates, TxDOT met regularly with TXAPA and the AGC as part of a joint committee. The committee reviewed specification rewrites, circulated drafts for industry comment, and evaluated

the responses. Not only did this process foster goodwill between the industry and TxDOT, it strengthened the relationship between TXAPA and the AGC. With many overlaps in membership, actively working together on a project like the spec book revision enabled the two associations to speak on behalf of industry in a unified voice.









### WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

2023 saw many milestones for TXAPA's workforce development initiatives including the formation of the We Build Texas Roads Joint Committee (in partnership with the AGC and TxDOT). The committee's first success was the "I Built This" marketing campaign launch. The campaign educates job seekers about asphalt industry careers and promotes the multitude of available opportunities for college and high school grads alike. To support the effort to reach out to high schoolers, TXAPA hosted the inaugural Workforce Rangers Training and hired a program coordinator. TxDOT's Austin District has been a significant partner in this endeavor, developing a Workforce Ranger go-kit and hosting several career fairs.

On the workforce preparedness front, TXAPA supported the efforts of Dr. Charles Gurganus and TTI to help launch the Highway Construction Workforce Partnership's Next Generation Workforce. An inaugural class of six students attended the 15-week course which was designed by Dr. Gurganus with input from TXAPA members and staff to produce work-ready graduates complete with OSHA and HMAC certifications. The pilot program which utilized TTI's RELLIS Campus and Blinn Jr. College facilities has the potential to create a pipeline of qualified candidates and could serve as the foundation for an asphalt pavement trade school. The TXAPA Scholarship Program provided scholarships to offset tuition and TXAPA members Big Creek Construction and Knife River loaned essential equipment for hands-on learning.

Closer to home, TXAPA's Board of Directors approved a new HMAC Scholarship. The program, which launched in June 2023, saw its first class of scholarship recipients come through the center and leave with certifications in Level 1A, Level 1B, and SB102. Over the course of the program,

students not only completed on-site training courses with a certified HMAC instructor, but had the opportunity to visit an asphalt plant, an active roadway project, and TxDOT's Materials and Tests Division.

2023 was another record-breaking year for the TXAPA Scholarship Program. President Jason Exum presided over the most well-attended TXAPA Annual Meeting and subsequently, the most successful scholarship auction in TXAPA history. TXAPA Members raised an eye-watering \$816,000 in support of the program's mission to Change Lives. As a result, 41 deserving students earned a TXAPA Scholarship for the 2022-2023 school year, including the HMAC Scholarship and participants in the Highway Workforce Development program. The TXAPA Scholarship Program awarded four partial scholarships to the Asphalt Road-eo winning team.



# SUSTAMABILITY

Environmental Product Declarations (EPDs) captured TXAPA members' attention in 2023. An EPD is a report provided by a construction materials producer to express a product's environmental impact. EPDs are currently not required in Texas but have gained limited traction in other parts of the country. TXAPA partnered with the National Asphalt Pavement Association (NAPA) to inform

and educate its members about potential federal and state legislation that could affect the industry. Through the efforts of the Sustainability and Permitting Committee, the Association held its second EPD-focused sustainability workshop with Joseph Shacat, NAPA's foremost expert on the subject and the technical lead for its EPD development tool. Two member companies, R.K. Hall

Construction Ltd. and Texas Materials Group, Inc. are proactively creating EPDs and shared their experiences. In addition to coordinating workshops, the Sustainability and Permitting Committee presented at the January and September member meetings and contributed articles quarterly to the Association's Texas Asphalt magazine.



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In 2023 Women of Asphalt Texas Branch grew to become the largest in the country with more than 200 active members.

SEPT Women of Asphalt Branch Member
Dinner at Annual Meeting

OCT Regional Event in Fort Worth

DEC Annual Ideas That Lead & Inspire
Women in the Field Panel Discussion





# AN AWARD-WINNING MIX: **QUALITY ASPHALT, QUALITY PEOPLE**

At the heart of all these activities is the goal to produce and lay more tons of hot mix asphalt. At TXAPA we believe that is best achieved when we provide a quality product. The proof is in our awards program. In 2023, TXAPA members submitted more than 80 projects for TxDOT-TXAPA Awards consideration. Nine projects survived two rounds of evaluation by veteran TxDOT and industry volunteers, to win the highest honors in Texas. All nine shone on the national stage having been submitted for and winning NAPA Quality in Construction Awards. Since 2020. Reece Albert and CSA Materials earned the distinction of being considered for the prestigious Sheldon G. Hayes Award twice, with top honors going to another TXAPA member firm, Kiewit Infrastructure.

Most importantly, we must acknowledge the people who laid the foundation for these successes. Our Board, Committee Chairs, and scores of passionate, involved members. Asphalt people. People like our inaugural Hall of Fame Class of 2023, past presidents Murray Ricks (Jagoe Public), John Miller (Big Creek Construction), Gene Carrier (Texas Materials Group East Texas Area), and Chuck Fuller (TXAPA), and people like Eric Johnson Service & Leadership Award winner Mike Brown (Texas Materials Group Central Texas Area). Without them, there is no asphalt pavement industry in Texas. These are just a few of the people who make our industry the place to learn, grow, and achieve your dreams. We are honored to present this report to you, our valued members. It represents our utmost respect and admiration for you and for the industry we serve. Thank you for an unforgettable 2023 and here's to an unbeatable 2024!

