

Vulcan Materials Receives IAAP Innovative Safety & Health Leadership Award

The IAAP's Safety Committee members developed the Innovative Safety & Health Leadership award with the expectation it will highlight practices by one company thereby providing others with an innovative example they may use at their own operations. The Committee grants this award to a company, workplace team, or individual demonstrating superior or exemplary contributions in safety & health leadership that engage employees with the understanding of what is needed to build and sustain an injury free workplace through their innovative and collective efforts.

Vulcan partnered with IAAP member Athletico Employer Services to establish the "Work Smart Injury Prevention Program" after realizing that the most common injuries, sprains and strains, can be avoided. In Illinois, all equipment operators, laborers, mechanics and electricians are now participating after receiving instruction on ergonomics, body mechanics, correct posture and muscle stretching. On designated days of the week at each site, an industrial wellness specialist from Athletico works individually with employees experiencing discomfort to address their aches and pains.



IAAP's Dan Eichholz presents the award to Jake Bartels, Plant Manager of McCook/MWRD facility

The numbers demonstrate its benefit. Vulcan ended 2015 with 19 reportable injuries at Illinois facilities and followed up in 2016 with 13. The program was first implemented at the McCook Quarry, the company's largest Illinois quarry, in 2017. Reportables in Illinois declined to 6 and were reduced again to 3 in 2018 as the program was implemented at all sites. The company benefits too as the cost of injuries has declined from over a million dollars in 2015 to less than \$175,000 in 2018.



The goal of this program continues to be achieved as the rates of injury due to accumulated stressors caused by the physical demands of life and work are reduced. Additionally, employee job satisfaction, productivity and efficiency increase as workers utilizing the program

adopt healthier lifestyles and working habits. Employees understand the company cares about their wellbeing.

Vulcan's safety director, Jason Schlee, will outline the progress his company has made utilizing this innovative approach to health and safety at next year's Aggregate Miner Safety Conference on March 3-4, 2020. It could help your company too.

