

IAAP's Industry Leadership Award to Vulcan Materials' Laraway Quarry

The goal of this award, now in its fourth year, is to recognize IAAP member companies that have demonstrated leadership excellence within our mining industry. Leadership can be determined in large part by employee participation in IAAP activities and company/mine site recognition award and certificate programs as well as efforts to promote the image and wellbeing of the industry, company, mine site, and its employees.

One company that mines in many communities in Illinois received the award at the IAAP Convention in March. Its employees actively serve on every IAAP member committee; chairing one committee. The company has been recognized with two Innovative Safety & Health Leadership awards granted by the IAAP. This past year, a company representative delivered a fine presentation from the operator's perspective on the handling of CCDD and uncontaminated soil fill when the IAAP's Environmental Committee partnered again with Illinois EPA on a training seminar for clean fill operators. And another employee has been dubbed "Rock Man", complete with a suit and cape, when he visits schools to teach children and community groups about the importance of this industry. The company and its employees volunteered countless hours towards rehabilitating nature through cooperative efforts with organizations and schools across Illinois. And they continue to contribute to this outstanding association by sponsoring teachers attending our Rocks, Minerals & Mining workshop for school teachers and serving on the IAAP Board of Directors.



Aaron Ozinga (IAAP President) congratulates
Don Theobald (Vulcan Materials)

But one of its nineteen operations in Illinois stands above the rest promoting the company's image and the industry as a whole. At this convention, this mine has been recognized with numerous awards including a Rock Solid Excellence in Safety award and safety awards in each of the past 16 years as well as 5 years of Environmental Excellence Gold certificates. NSSGA granted this mine an Environmental Excellence award in 2018. And while the company gives support and resources, leadership comes from the actions of individuals.

Now in the 42nd year of his career, Don Theobald holds high expectations for his employees and improving the wellbeing of his crews while priding himself in operational excellence. He has been with Vulcan since its acquisition of Avery Gravel where he started in 1977. We know this is an award for the facility, but this facility is a direct reflection of its leader. And to demonstrate what

his crew thinks of him, they have provided this message to Don “You have always given constant encouragement, support and honesty to your employees. You have always stood behind us when needed and gone above and beyond for all of us. It has been a privilege to be led by a boss, mentor and manager like you. Congratulations well deserved!”

IAAP trusts you will agree Vulcan Material Company’s Laraway Quarry is an industry leader.