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ARPA News Release

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Teachers Get an Education on Material Use and Production



A group of Arizona Teachers Pose for a Picture at Granite Construction's Swan Plant South of Tucson

Tucson, Arizona – On Saturday, February 11, teachers from around the state came together to participate in an expeditionary learning experience to discover how aggregate products and cement are produced. The trip, conducted by the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) and the Arizona Foundation for Resource Education (AFRE), was an effort to help educators to understand the vital mining industry and dispel any myths they may have about what goes on behind the scenes of these major operations.

Teachers were simply amazed at what they saw and stated that they had no idea that the industry was so technologically driven, capitol intensive, and provided so many opportunities to potential employees. “I really enjoyed this educational experience, it was very informative. To see vital Arizona industry was quite amazing,” stated Rosemary

Carroll of Greenfield Elementary School in Gilbert. “I will take this information back to my classroom to share with my students.”

Teachers also commented on the amount of pride the employees of Granite Construction and Arizona Portland Cement Companies took in what they did. “We appreciated the professionalism and enthusiasm of the tour leaders at the different plants,” stated one participant. Bill Mackey of Granite Construction and Steve Barlow of Arizona Portland Cement were instrumental in facilitating the tour and explaining the safety, environmental, economic, and processing issues involved in a vital Arizona industry. “The teachers experienced everything from the differences in the various products they produce including aggregate material, ready mix concrete, asphalt, and cement, to the high levels of education the various professions within the industry require,” stated Diane Williamson of the Cartwright School District and AFRE faculty member. Tammi Cruz of Mesquite Jr. High stated, “This is a high level math and science intensive industry.”

Facilitators of the tour explained the significant effects of the aggregate industry on our state’s economy and that related firms employ 10,547 Arizona workers who provide essential materials for an additional 195,330 workers in the construction industry. The direct output, production and deliveries of the Arizona Rock Products Industry were over \$2.2 billion dollars in fiscal year 2005. Those revenues are disbursed back into the Arizona economy as expenditures for personnel, materials, supplies, equipment, fuel, utilities, leases, services and payments to governments. “These are numbers that have significant impact in defining the state’s economy and are indicative of high growth, especially at a time of high demand for construction materials,” states Steve Trussell of the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA).

The day concluded with a certificate for ten hours of continuing educational credit which teachers can use toward their professional growth and development credits. Tucson teachers requested more industry related tours in the Tucson area and were greatly appreciative of the efforts of ARPA member companies and the Arizona Foundation for Resource Education (AFRE). AFRE provides teacher workshops on a variety of natural resource topics. Visit their website at www.azresourced.org for more information on upcoming events.

For nearly 50 years, the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) has been providing representation for over 46 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement. Our members, along with over 77 associate members providing related transportation, contracting, and consulting services, make ARPA one of the most influential public and private policy advocates in Arizona today.