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Arizona Rock Products Association News Release

November 8, 2003 – *For Immediate Distribution*

Teachers Get an Education

Tucson, Arizona – On Saturday, November 8, twenty-six teachers from all around the state came together to participate in an expeditionary learning experience to discover how aggregates products and cement are produced. The trip, a first for the Arizona Rock Products Association and the Arizona Foundation for Resource Education, 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 tour guides took in what they did. “We appreciated the professionalism and enthusiasm of the tour leaders of the different plants,” stated one participant. Mike Smith of Tucson Ready Mix, Bob Linsell of Kalamazoo Materials, Steve Barlow and Bill Phillips of Arizona Portland Cement were instrumental in explaining the safety, environmental, economic, and processing issues involved in a vital Arizona industry. They explained 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. 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 9,388 Arizona workers who provide essential materials for an additional 173,950 workers in the construction industry. The direct output, production and deliveries of the Arizona Rock Products Industry were \$1.82 billion dollars in fiscal year 2003. 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 responsible growth,” 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.azresourceed.org for more information on upcoming events.

For nearly 50 years, the Arizona Rock Products Association (ARPA) has been providing representation for over 55 member companies involved with the production of aggregates, asphaltic concrete, ready mix concrete, asphalt, lime products, and portland cement. Out members, along with over 85 associate members providing related transportation, contracting, and consulting services, make ARPA one of the most influential public and private policy advocates in Arizona today