

Industry Leadership Awards

The goal of these awards is to recognize IAAP member companies and individuals that have demonstrated leadership excellence within our mining industry. Leadership can be demonstrated in part by employee participation in IAAP committees, achieving awards, and participation in events. However, more significantly, leadership may be demonstrated by member companies engaged in efforts to promote and advance the image and well-being of the industry, company, and its employees that may not be related to IAAP activities.

Now in the 7th year, IAAP members once again recognized a mining company and an associate member company whose contributions to the IAAP and industry are significant and long lasting. All IAAP members were eligible and encouraged to submit nominations. IAAP staff and committees submitted nominations as well.

Jack Keeler and Holcim

Holcim was honored during the IAAP Convention on December 7, 2022, with this year's Industry Leadership Award for evolving and strengthening their commitment to the Illinois aggregates industry after quickly establishing a footprint in the State.

IAAP President, Alan Shoemaker said, "Over the years, Holcim has become one of the most steadfast supporters of the IAAP attending and sponsoring events, supporting the Political Action Committee, sponsoring teachers to attend the IAAP's Rocks, Minerals & Mining in Today's Society workshops, and community events near their mining operations."

Holcim employees actively serve on IAAP member committees. Becky Kazmierski chairs the IAAP's Public Information and Education Committee and presents at public education events organized by the IAAP, Holcim, and other IAAP members. The IAAP's Safety Committee works on issues benefitting the whole industry and is chaired by Angela Nickel. Jack Keeler and Dan Larson serve on the IAAP's Education Foundation Committee selecting scholarship winners pursuing an education that prepares them for a career in the mining industry or teaching Earth Science. Talented employees from Holcim play active roles in outreach activities like the IAAP's Rocks, Minerals & Mining



Incoming IAAP President, Alan Shoemaker, presented the award to Jack Keeler from Holcim

IAAP's Rocks, Minerals & Mining

workshop for teachers, and Earth Stewardship Day. Employees generously interact with community-based organizations seeking to understand what's going on beyond the fence at their mining sites. Holcim employees and sites are featured in the Let's Rock Illinois workforce program helping students realize the wealth of career opportunities in the mining industry.

Each year, Holcim and its employees prove their commitment to the safety and wellbeing of their fellow employees, the protection of our environment, and commitment to the communities in which they mine by receiving numerous safety, environmental, and community relations awards from the IAAP.

The company's leader in Illinois stands out as an inspiration to us all. Jack Keeler remains a long-time, active IAAP Board member, and served as president from 2020 to 2022. He challenged Board members to support and address the need to encourage students to explore careers in this industry, then helped to ensure the development of the Let's Rock Illinois campaign. This innovative campaign is now spreading across America as other states duplicate what this association has accomplished for the industry. Keeler believes in sustainably supporting the industry and making us all stronger and wiser.

Holcim and its employees are demonstrating they are worthy of the IAAP's Industry Leadership Award.

Jim Fletcher and Bowser-Morner

The recipient of this year's Associate Member Leadership Award, Bowser-Morner Testing Laboratories, has been very engaged in the IAAP since 2000 when the company joined the Association. Bowser-Morner is based in Ohio, but in 2004, at the request of Illinois customers, the company's owner, Jim Fletcher, opened a satellite lab in Springfield, Illinois designed to serve the aggregate industry. Jim is retiring this month after more than 42 years leading the company.

Dan Eichholz, IAAP Executive Director remarked, "Jim has been a valuable resource and huge contributor to the IAAP's Specifications and Technical Committee and the whole IAAP membership for many years. In addition to sharing information and his unmatched knowledge to assist the committee on technical issues, Jim has served multiple



Karl Fletcher (Bowser-Morner) accepted the award from Dan Eichholz, IAAP Executive Director

times as a presenter at IAAP conventions – passing along information benefitting the entire construction industry in Illinois.”

Over the past two years, Jim Fletcher has donated countless hours and put thousands of miles on his car driving to Illinois for meetings as the IAAP and its members worked with the Illinois Department of Transportation to improve the aggregate freeze-thaw testing program. Jim’s contributions on this issue have been numerous and his approach throughout has been to make recommendations that are in the best interest of taxpayers and the entire industry, regardless of whether those recommendations would, or would not, benefit Bowser-Morner. Jim has continued to give his time and lend his knowledge - even after his retirement was announced and he was supposed to be ‘phasing out’ of full-time work.

In addition to helping with numerous technical and specifications issues over the years, Jim Fletcher, working through the IAAP, has provided technical assistance to the Illinois Department of Agriculture’s agricultural aglime testing program, which affords significant benefit to IAAP members producing aglime and cost savings to farmers in Illinois and surrounding states.

Bowser-Morner is a sponsor and contributor to IAAP events. The company is a “Rock Star” supporter of IAAP’s Political Action Committee and they donate rock and mineral samples for teachers that have attended the IAAP’s Rocks, Minerals & Mining workshop.

Karl Fletcher, Jim’s son and Bowser-Morner employee will be taking a more active role with the IAAP and its members in Illinois as his father begins retirement in 2023. Karl accepted the award for Bowser-Morner at the IAAP convention in Springfield.