

Conference Report

IMPACT Leadership Group CONFERENCE

Sept. 17-19, 2019
The W Hotel - Buckhead
ATLANTA, GA



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The IMPACT Leadership Group exists to help develop the next generation of leaders for the asphalt pavement industry. When they convene for their annual conference, it's the perfect opportunity to engage with each other personally and professionally. The 2019 IMPACT Leadership Group Conference in Atlanta was tailor-made for the more than 80 emerging industry innovators and leaders who attended. The event

featured tours of the National Center for Asphalt Technology at Auburn University Lab and Test Track as well as concise, informative sessions on technologies for quality control, autonomous equipment, building information modeling, and drones. After the technical sessions, things got reflective in a self-awareness workshop, which facilitated steady, lively interaction among attendees.

Technical Immersion

During the tour of the NCAT Test Track, Auburn Professor Dr. David Timm, P.E., and Dr. Buzz Powell, P.E., NCAT Assistant Director & Test Track Manager, summarized research happening on the 1.7-mile oval track, which is a proving ground for asphalt pavement innovations. Attendees got an up-close look at the track's falling weight deflectometer, which helps designers understand how pavements respond to dynamic loading. In the lab, NCAT technicians and engineers explained various tests and processes, from binder extraction to cracking tests and core sampling.

The technical sessions commenced on day two. Attendees were challenged to consider automated mix sampling during load-out at asphalt plants, intelligent compaction, paperless density reporting, and 3D software for virtual project planning, among an array of other innovations available to the industry today. The morning closed with Dr. Richard Willis, NAPA Vice President for Engineering, Research & Technology, moderating a panel of IMPACT speakers. One issue key to future success is increased trust between contractors and road owners, which segued well to the afternoon workshop on conflict resolution and self-awareness.

“As a first-time attendee, it was a great experience to be surrounded by other individuals in the construction industry who are passionate about leadership and innovation.”

Stacy Glidden
Construction Resources Management,
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Self-Awareness Workshop

Prior to the conference, attendees completed online the Myers–Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI), an introspective questionnaire created to identify differing psychological preferences in how people engage the world around them, process information, make decisions, and prefer to structure their lives. During the self-awareness workshop, led by Ed Rowell, a consultant with the FMI Center for Strategic Leadership, participants received the results of their MBTI and engaged in collaborative activities to learn about how to work with each other’s personality types, communication styles, and approaches to conflict.

“I found the Myers–Briggs workshop very enlightening. FMI provided us with a comprehensive report analyzing our answers, and as I observed our group, it was clear everyone was eager to learn their results.”

Molly Soltis
Asphalt Testing Solutions & Engineering

