

Vol. 3 | 2022

Infrastructure

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF TEXAS

**The Kelly Durham
Classic**

**AGC of Texas
Scholarship
Recipients**

**TxDOT's Top
Priority: Safety**

**Administrative
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**TDCJ: Beyond the
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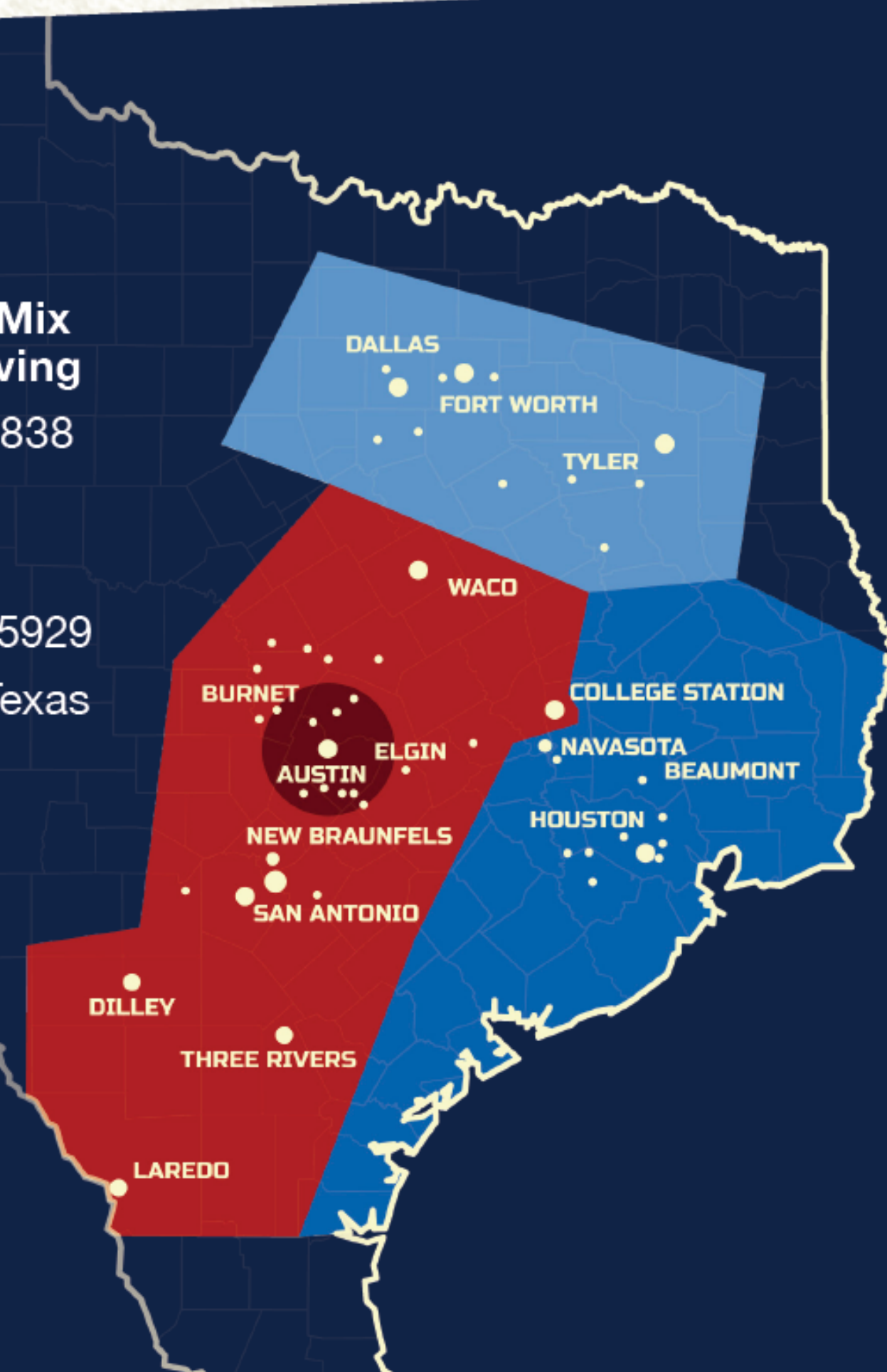
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The Future is Bright for AGC of Texas



At our recent Administrative Conference, I had the privilege of delivering the State of the Chapter Report.

Bottom Line Up Front: The state of the chapter is good. Really good.

We started the planning and strategizing for 2022 before this year even begun with a Board Retreat where key individuals

participated in a facilitated discussion outlining what we wanted to achieve this year.

During this retreat, we established the theme of past, present and future and developed goals for each.

For past, we wanted to celebrate those who came before us and honor the work and efforts they put into the chapter. At the beginning of each board meeting, we talk about one of the past presidents who has left a lasting legacy on our industry and our association.

We are who we are today because of those who have come before us. That is something important to remember and build on.

For present, we set objectives for key staff retention and fiscal management. We also discussed how to best position ourselves for the future of the chapter based on the actions we take today.

AGC of Texas is a well-run business with a solid plan and outstanding execution. At last report, AGC of Texas members won 88% of the TxDOT market. Your voice is heard through the AGC.

The past is strong, the present is great. The future, however, is the most important.

It is our duty to plan and prepare for the future in our present. We have reconfigured the Strategic Planning Committee with the insight and leadership of immediate past National AGC President Bob Lanham to help prepare for the future. The Board provided several topics for the committee to look at including:

- **Growing future AGC leaders.** We want more young people and those with more diverse backgrounds to be part of AGC leadership. Texas and America are changing, and we need the insight of a new crop of leaders to help us adapt to a different future.
- **Communicating with the world in a different way.** We can't just sit back; we must adapt to the new ways people communicate their thoughts and ideas. We—our industry—has a great story. This story has to be told.
- **Fight feelings with science.** We have engaged the Baker Institute at Rice University to help us and decision-makers understand the real impacts of transportation projects.

We need science, insightful leaders and new communication skills to shape the future for our state and our industry.

Past – Present – Future

Our past has given us opportunity and insight.

Our present is outstanding because of the great AGC staff and the involvement of our members and committee chairs.

The future is ours to shape. The challenges are big, but we are ready and we will always be ready.

Thank you for allowing me to serve. May God continue to bless each of you and always bless Texas.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Casteel". The signature is fluid and cursive.

David Casteel
AGC of Texas President

No Slowdown in Sight



The summer months are always such a whirlwind of activity and excitement at the AGC of Texas.

This year, Management Conference attendees journeyed to beautiful Mackinac Island in Michigan's Upper Peninsula for a truly unforgettable experience.

Conference attendees were welcomed to Mackinac Island with a reception on the Grand Hotel's

colonial front porch. The next three days included important discussions with our elected officials on topics including: Planning for Texas in 2023 and Beyond, The Texas Economy in a Post-Pandemic World, Energy and Aggregates: Building the Future of Texas, and Connecting Texas: Ports to Plains and Everything in Between. After the sessions, attendees were able to explore the island via bike or horse-drawn carriage and consume their weight in fudge from the many shops lining the island's main street.

This issue's cover image is of Mackinac Island's Arch Rock, a natural limestone arch formed during the post-glacial period which today stands 146 feet above Lake Huron's shoreline. Photos from this year's conference begin on page 12.

Administrative Conference returned to the JW Marriott Hill Country Resort and Spa in San Antonio for a family-friendly affair which kicked off with an 80s-themed welcome reception (catch a glimpse of McCourt Equipment's Colin Keane rocking a mullet on page 34). The first day of session included updates on the state of the chapter (President Casteel provides a recap on page 4), as well as updates from the Texas Water Development Board, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. On Saturday, our friends from TxDOT joined us to provide a variety of departmental updates before we closed the conference with an epic pool party.

Across the state, areas were hosting golf tournaments and fishing tournaments including the very special Kelly Durham Classic in memory of our beloved friend and colleague. You can read more about the tournament and Kelly's legacy on page 22.

Amid all of the fun activities and events happening across the state, you were also hard at work building and maintaining Texas' infrastructure. Our members have an 88% market share of TxDOT work and the Department closed out Fiscal Year 2022 in August with a record-setting \$10 billion annual letting.

As if that wasn't enough, the Chapter Office in Austin is currently under construction. More information about the remodel and the changes to chapter operations during this time are on page 9 and the AGC of Texas website. Thank you for your patience during this time, I'm looking forward to unveiling and welcoming you back into the reimagined Chapter Office in 2023.

As 2022 draws to a close and we begin the planning process for 2023, I want to take a moment to thank you for your involvement and support of AGC of Texas and the highway construction industry. AGC of Texas is our members and your commitment is what keeps our industry alive and well.

I encourage everyone to get involved in their area and in committees and task forces. If you're interested in a leadership role, please reach out to me, the AGC of Texas staff, or the Board. The next AGC of Texas leaders are among us and we want to do whatever we can to help support and encourage your development and involvement in AGC.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve.

Jennifer Woodard
AGC of Texas Chief Executive Officer

Congratulations to the 2022 AGC



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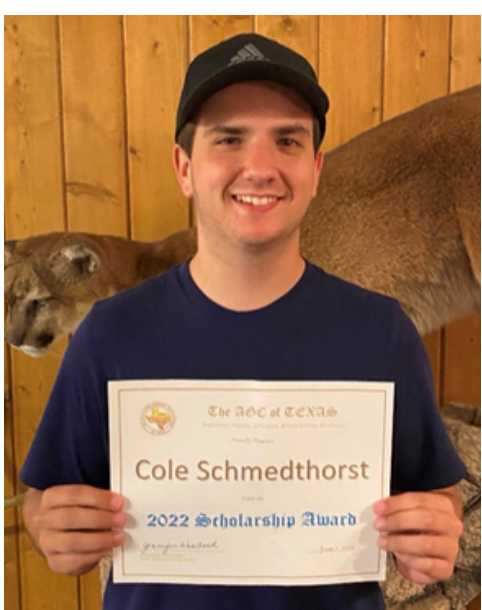
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Nicholas Herrera
Texas A&M University
Civil Engineering
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Landon Howell
University of Mary Hardin Baylor
Business Management
Sponsor: Larwel Industries



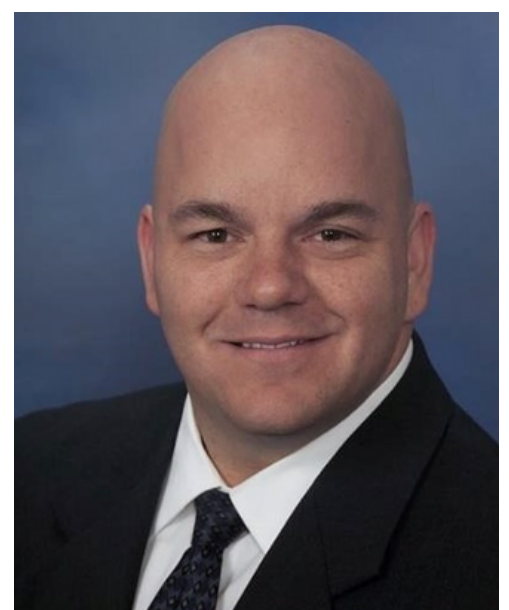
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AGC of Texas Scholarship Recipients at the August Membership Luncheon Awards Ceremony



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AGC of Texas Chapter Office



Important Information Regarding the Building Remodel

AGC of Texas is undergoing an extensive building remodel of our chapter office in Austin. While we are extremely excited to unveil the new office and meeting space to our members, the remodel will take several months and will require the office to be fully vacated during this time.

As such, AGC has moved our chapter operations to the Westgate Office. As this space is not large enough to accommodate our full staff, we'll be operating under a hybrid/remote work policy beginning in July until project completion. Rest assured, AGC of Texas operations will continue as normal but, as this is a departure from our normal operations, we wanted to communicate the changes and ask for your patience during this time. These changes will only affect our chapter office in Austin.

AGC of Texas staff will continue to work during our normal operating hours (Monday-Friday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.) and will be available via email, by calling the office (512-478-4691), or via cell phone. The staff's cell phone numbers are on the AGC of Texas website.

Additionally, please direct all mail to our P.O. Box listed below. If mail does need to be sent to a physical address, please send it to our Westgate location.

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Management Conference 2022



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Administrative Conference

JW Marriott San Antonio Hill Country Resort & Spa

July 28-30, 2022



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AGC of Texas President



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Texas House District 81



Stacey Bryant
AGC of Texas President-Elect



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Texas Water Development Board



Jimmy Christianson
AGC of America, VP of Government Relations



Commissioner Emily Lindley
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality



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Carl Johnson TxDOT DE Fort Worth, **Stan Swiatek** TxDOT DE Waco

The Kelly Durham Classic

San Antonio PAC Fishing Tournament

A familiar face was noticeably absent from the San Antonio PAC Fishing Tournament in Port Aransas, but his memory and spirit were alive and well among the members in attendance.

Kelly Durham of Performance Equipment Service passed away last year from COVID.

“Your father was such an instrumental part in getting this tournament going and he was such a friend of AGC. He was such a friend of the industry and so many contractors here. We love him. We miss him. And we just wanted one little thing to say thank you.” AGC of Texas Past President Chad Clark (Clark Construction) told Kelly’s children while presenting them with a plaque in their father’s honor.

“Dad always made it a point to be involved with AGC,” said Dustin. “He was big on taking care of the industry and making sure we were doing right by everyone at the table.”

“I always respected him as my father but even more so because he literally would walk into a room and make a name and a seat for himself,” added Lauren. “It wasn’t necessarily his table but he made a seat for himself so he could help all these people grow and understand from a different perspective. That’s amazing to me.”

Kelly was born in Corpus Christi and loved fishing in the area. When the idea of starting an AGC fishing tournament was first discussed, Kelly wanted to be right in the middle of it.

“He wanted to find a route to make money for the Political Action Committee,” said Lauren. “Something he was super passionate about was making sure the Texas Highway Heavy Industry was taken care of and that starts at the top, that starts on a political level. That starts on making sure that we have funds to drive our industry and that’s where his passion was. To make sure that not Performance Equipment, not AGC, but all of the Texas industry was taken care of.”

Kelly was a big-picture kind of guy who stuck to his principles. He imparted a number of important lessons to his children, employees, and other AGC members.

“Hard work and always do the right thing,” Kendall said about the values her father modeled. “Dad was always about doing what you say you’re going to do. That was dad’s number one thing.”

The Kelly Durham Classic was the largest San Antonio area fishing tournament and raised the most funds for the AGC of Texas PAC to date.

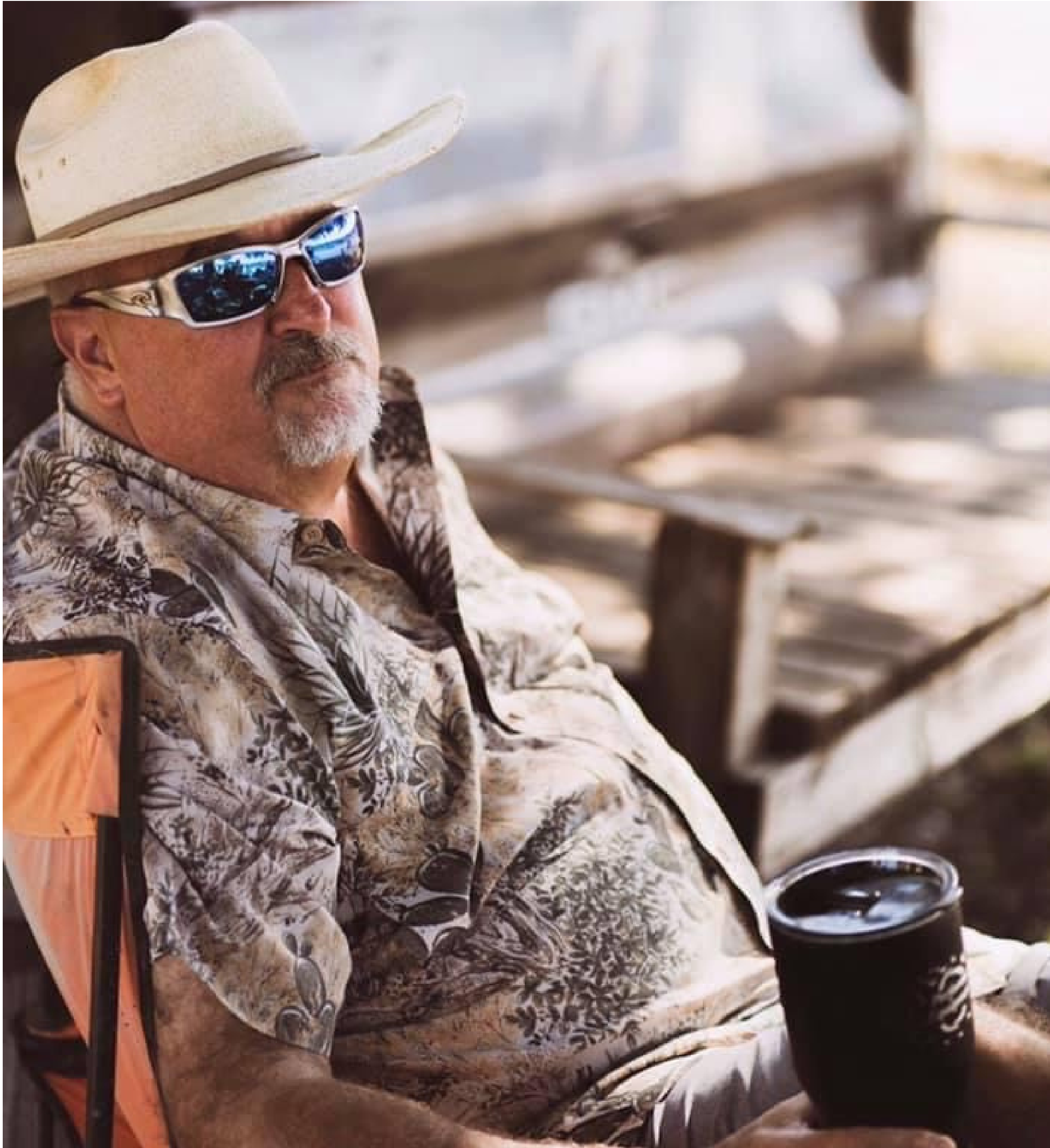
“He made a mark and I think more people wanted to participate because of that,” said Kendall.

“It’s a huge honor,” added Lauren. “Our goal from here on is to build this tournament even bigger than it is today.”

The tournament concluded with friends and loved ones sharing lots of laughs and memories after a long day of fishing and drinking; a perfect way to honor the life and legacy of Kelly Durham.



In Loving Memory



Kelly Durham

December 3, 1963 – August 19, 2021



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TxDOT's Top Priority: Safety

By: Lance Simmons, TxDOT

At the Texas Department of Transportation, safety is our top priority. Nothing we do is more important because nothing—no project, no program, no initiative—is more important than keeping people safe. During the summer months, safety is especially top of mind. There is more traffic on the roadways, and more work is performed increasing work zone activity statewide. We need drivers to pay close attention in work zones because conditions of the roadway may have changed or shifted.

In Texas in 2021, there were 3,179 active work zones. More than 26,000 traffic crashes occurred in these work zones, resulting in 244 deaths, which accounts for a 33% jump in fatalities and an 18% increase in crashes from 2020.

Of the 244 fatalities, 195 were drivers or their passengers, 38 were pedestrians and 4 were bicyclists. While no TxDOT employees have lost their lives on the job since 2018, three TxDOT contractors died as a result of crashes last year in work zones. Families lost fathers, mothers, sons, daughters, and friends.

Work zone deaths and injuries are rising for a variety of reasons. There are more vehicles on Texas roadways creating increased traffic. The most common causes of work zone crashes are speeding, unsafe lane changes, failure to drive in a single lane, following too closely and driver inattention. Distracted driving also plays a large role because construction zones demand drivers' full attention, and those who are distracted are far more likely to cause a crash when in work zones.

TxDOT has taken many important steps to raise awareness of work zone safety, including our "Be Safe. Drive Smart." campaign that reminds motorists to be alert when driving—especially in work zones. In May, we began our annual "Safe Days of Summer" campaign. Each year between May and August we often see a seasonal increase in traffic.

That's why each summer, our Occupational Safety and Traffic Safety divisions renew the challenge to each TxDOT district and division to have a summer free of incidents and injury.

We cannot become complacent when it comes to safety. That's why every project we fund has a safety component. Last August, TxDOT announced a new TxDOT/MPO Safety Task Force. This new Safety Task Force is focused on short-term and long-term strategies and plans to invest in ongoing safety initiatives with our MPO partners.

We must continue educating drivers, building safer roadways and encouraging safe driving behavior. Because safer roads don't work without safer drivers. The leading causes of work zone crashes— speeding, driver inattention, and unsafe lane changes – are entirely preventable.

Safer driving is not only necessary to save lives, but also the law. The Texas Move Over or Slow Down law requires drivers to move over a lane or reduce their speed to 20 mph below the posted speed limit when approaching a TxDOT vehicle, emergency vehicle, tow truck or utility vehicle stopped with flashing blue or amber lights on the roadside or shoulder. Violation of this law can result in a fine of up to \$2,000.

Everyone, from engineers and planners to drivers and pedestrians, must take responsibility for keeping our roads safe. Lives depend on it.

2022 Fatalities Summary

Contributing Factor	Jan - Jun 2021		Jan - Jun 2022	
	# Fatalities	% Fatalities	# Fatalities	% Fatalities
Speed Related	706	34%	702	33%
Unrestrained	580	28%	609	29%
DUI All	686	33%	537	25%
Pedestrian	375	18%	360	17%
Motorcyclist	227	11%	271	13%
Work Zone	114	5%	90	4%
Bicycle	38	2%	47	2%
Total Fatalities	2082		2114	

The above slide was presented as part of the safety update by TxDOT Chief Engineer Lance Simmons, P.E. during AGC of Texas' Administrative Safety Conference on July 30, 2022.

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TDCJ: Beyond the Walls



It has been eight years since Keidrain Brewster was released from TDCJ.

In that time, he has used the skills he developed while incarcerated to begin his own successful trucking company, Brewster Logistics, LLC. Making that necessary change in his life has allowed Keidrain to make a positive impact on those currently incarcerated and help new parolees continue down their own path toward success.

TDCJ: Tell us a little bit about yourself.

KB: I went from being inmate #1091836 to now owning a successful trucking company. I spent thirteen years in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. I went from the streets to the suites and I now provide former inmates with that same opportunity.

TDCJ: How long have you been out of prison?

KB: I was released from prison August 4, 2014.

TDCJ: What are your motivations in life that made you want to do well upon release?

KB: Nobody wants to be free as badly as I want to be free. That was one. The second one of my motivation that keeps me focused. I want to be successful, and success is out that if you're looking to accomplish it.

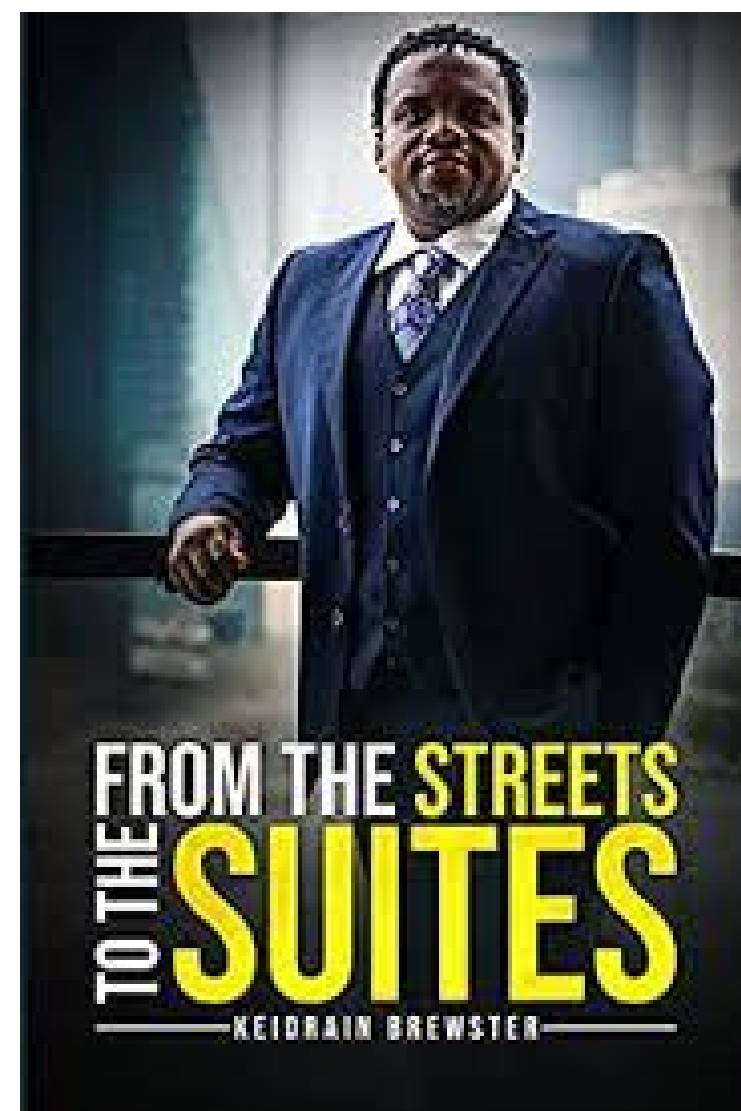
TDCJ: Tell us about your overall experience with being released and any secrets or resources that have contributed to your success.

KB: I didn't have a victim's mentality. Coming home, no one owes you anything. Nobody's gonna give you anything. And then there's my work ethic. That's something that sets me apart from a lot of other individuals I've worked with. It was brought to my attention when I was incarcerated. There was a kitchen officer that told me how I had such an amazing work ethic. At the time, when she was explaining it to me, I didn't really know what it meant but now that I'm in society, that right there along with determination will determine success or failure for you.

And as far as resources, I was educating myself. I wrote two books; one is a best-selling book, "From the Streets to the Suites," and the second is "From the Rec Yard to the Streets," that details the actual re-entry process and the steps that was defined. Educating yourself is paramount to being released and being successful.

TDCJ: What advice would you give someone being released or coming onto parole for the first time?

KB: To be successful in re-entry into society, you need to stay away from negative people, places, and things. That right there is key. I tell everyone when you reintegrate back into society, your environment, the people you're dealing with, talking to, all those things will play a role into your success or your failure.



"From the Streets to the Suites" is available for purchase on Amazon.

To keep up with Keidrain and his work, like "Brewster Logistics LLC" on Facebook.

To hear other success stories of re-entry, visit "TDCJ - Beyond the Walls" on Facebook.

Learn more about re-entry programs through TDCJ on the next page!



Texas Department of Criminal Justice Website for Work






Learn more and register at: www.reentry.tdcj.texas.gov

The Reentry and Integration Division's Website for Work initiative is a groundbreaking program designed to connect qualified discharged offenders statewide with employers requiring skilled workers.

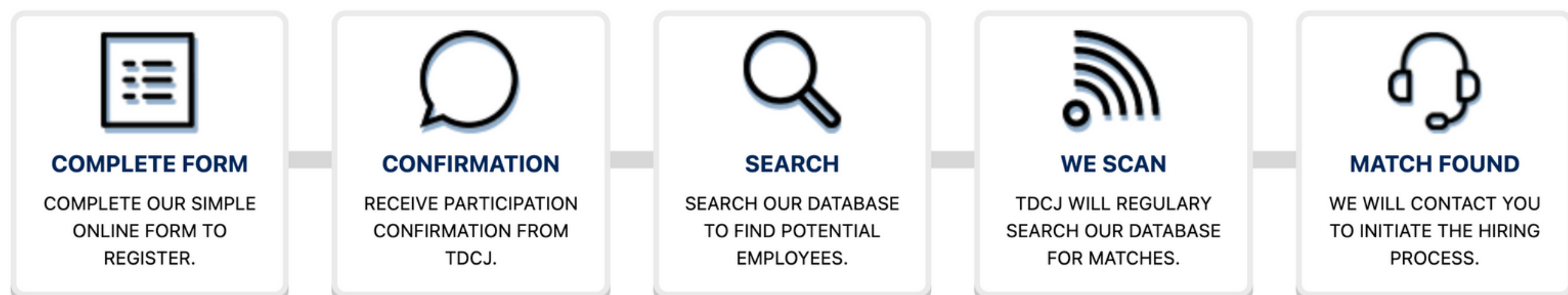
This program matches employers with qualified applicants that have been discharged from a TDCJ facility. While in prison, offenders gain work experience applicable to jobs outside of prison. Some offenders receive vocational training and certification while some offenders earn Associate's, Bachelor's, and Master's degrees.

Employment is an extremely important factor in helping ex-offenders get back on their feet. TDCJ has full-time staff working hard to match employers with parolees that have the skills and experience they are looking for.

How it Works

-  Complete the online Employer Registration form.
-  A TDCJ staff member will contact you to confirm that you want to participate.
-  Search our database for potential employees.
-  TDCJ staff will regularly scan our databases for parolees matching your needs.
-  When a match is found, we will contact you to initiate the hiring process.

The Process



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Keeping Our Eye on the Ball

By: Dave Bauer, President & CEO of the American Road and Transportation Builders Association

*“Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end.
But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning.”
—Winston Churchill, 1942*

November’s passage of the new infrastructure law brings to mind this Churchill quote, delivered after a long-sought victory during World War II. Enactment of the law was a hard-fought achievement, but it is just step one of a multiyear process, culminating in a renewed transportation system for all Americans.

The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act’s (IIJA) massive spending increases may dominate the headlines, but its implementation will also determine the infrastructure law’s legacy. Now that Congress passed a funding deal that exceeds the IIJA’s recommended levels, the hard work of putting policy into practice begins. The law’s programs and policies were a carefully-crafted, bipartisan achievement, and their implementation must move forward with the law’s intent top of mind. For ARTBA, this means a strategic emphasis on the executive branch.

The IIJA contains more than 75 regulatory actions that could impact transportation projects across the country, and ARTBA’s regulatory affairs team is tracking each one. ARTBA members now have access to this new regulatory matrix at artba.org, which catalogs each provision and statutory deadline and will be updated throughout the law’s duration.

ARTBA is ramping up engagement with federal agencies to advance the priorities of the transportation construction industry and ensure the new law delivers true infrastructure solutions.

Long-standing ARTBA efforts to streamline the project delivery process can make headway through the IIJA’s codification of the “One Federal Decision” executive order. ARTBA met with the White House Council on Environmental Quality on the environmental review process and reinforced the IIJA’s goal to reduce delays. Similarly, ARTBA was invited to a discussion with the White House officials on the new law’s Buy America provisions and followed up that conversation with detailed comments and recommendations.

Safety is a top U.S. Department of Transportation (U.S. DOT) and ARTBA priority. The enhanced funding levels in the IIJA will lead to more work zones, and in turn, puts more roadway construction workers at risk. U.S. DOT is prioritizing vulnerable road users (VRUs), but has failed to acknowledge workers as a part of this group. Through participation in a March listening session and in letters to Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg and other administration officials, ARTBA is urging U.S. DOT to more explicitly classify roadway construction workers as VRUs. This would help prioritize their safety, alongside administration efforts to reduce pedestrian fatalities.

Before long, it will be time to begin formulating policy reforms for the next surface transportation reauthorization. But for now, ARTBA remains engaged with multiple Biden administration agency officials as the IIJA implementation process escalates in the year ahead.







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