

2026 Utah Asphalt Conference Schedule

Day 1: Wednesday, February 18, 2026

8:00AM	Registration, Breakfast, & Exhibits				
8:30AM - 10:00AM	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Session: Host/Moderator: Jonas Staker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">State of UAPA : Executive Director - Rick Johnson & Friends of the Industry Recognition (10 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Conference Kickoff & Keynote: Carlos Braceras-UDOT Executive Director (30-40) "We're All on a Journey -- You're Paving the Way."</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2026 Hall of Fame Inductee Recognized (5 Min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workforce Development: 2 Scholarship Teams Present (15 min)</p>				
10:00AM	Show Opens & Prize Drawings				
	Room 200 A&B	Room 200 C&D	Room 300 A&B	Room 300 C&D	Room 400
10:30AM - 11:20AM Session #1	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE <i>City, County & State Implementation of Balanced Mix Design: Measured Benefits and Key Insights.</i> Presenters: Elie Hajj - University of Nevada Reno Tim Biel - CMT Technical Services Host: Gary Lindley</p>	<p>TECH & INNOVATION <i>Smart Compaction, New Technology being released by Wirtgen.</i> Presenter: Dan Sant Anselmo -HAMM Wirtgen America Inc. Host: Dave Kolesky</p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE <i>Benefits of modified & Innovative Asphalt Emulsions.</i> Presenters: Mo Rahman – Ergon, Inc. Ryan Proctor – Suncor Energy Host: Craig Fabrizio</p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE <i>Workplace Safety Essentials: PPE, Equipment & Response/Reporting</i> Presenters: Earl Goodfellow- Road Safe Traffic Systems & Contractor Host: Nicole Shields</p>	<p>Leadership & People <i>Delivering Effective Feedback in the Modern Workplace</i> Presenter: Jeannie Johnson- Utah State University Host: Skyler Droubay</p>
Class Description	<p>Session explores how balanced mix design is being implemented at the city, county & state levels, highlighting measured performance benefits, lessons learned, & how agencies are using real data to improve pavement durability & decision-making. Current APWA specs will be discussed & a high level review.</p>	<p>Session explores smart compaction using machine automation & Density Prediction Systems (DPS) to provide roller operators w/real-time density feedback during rolling operations. Learn how this technology improves decision-making in the field, enhances consistency & delivers measurable benefits to operators, QC/QA teams & project owners.</p>	<p>Session examines the role of modified & innovative asphalts & emulsions in advancing pavement preservation strategies across the Intermountain & Southwestern United States. It focuses on how advances in asphalt modification & emulsion technology can extend pavement life, improve safety & help agencies manage maintenance budgets more effectively through proven, field-tested applications.</p>	<p>Safety session provides a foundational understanding of the three pillars of workplace protection: selecting the right gear, operating safely around machinery & the critical importance of documentation. Designed for high impact in a short timeframe, this course equips participants w/the knowledge to identify hazards before they lead to injury.</p>	<p>Led by a professor from Utah State University, session examines how changing workforce expectations, generational dynamics & evolving workplace norms are reshaping how feedback should be delivered to motivate performance, build trust, & retain employees.</p>
11:30AM	Lunch				
12:00PM - 1:30PM	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote & UAPA Awards & Scholarships. Host/Moderator: Jonas Staker</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workforce Development: 1-2 Scholarship Teams Present (15 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Sydne Jacques, PE, (45 min) "Build What Matters: Navigating the Road Ahead"</p>				

	Room 200 A&B	Room 200 C&D	Room 300 A&B	Room 300 C&D	Room 400
1:30PM - 2:20PM Session #2	<p>TECH & INNOVATION Advancing Asphalt Pavement Density Measurement: From Specifications to Emerging Technologies Presenters: Nam Tran - National Center for Asphalt Technology Derek Nener-Plante- DNP Infrastructure Host: Brock Rasmussen</p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE Preserving Pavements with Purpose: Using PMS, PCI, and Surface Treatments Effectively Presenters: Randy Tattershall – Asphalt Machinery & Innovations Cynthia Powell – Total Asphalt Rejuvenation Host: James Clark</p>	<p>INDUSTRY UPDATES National Political Landscape on Asphalt Industry. Presenter: Mitch Baldwin – National Asphalt Pavement Association Host: Paul McMillan</p>	<p>TECH & INNOVATION Utah's Highly Modified Asphalt (Hi-Mod): From Innovation to Implementation. Presenter Panel: Howard Anderson - UDOT Victor Johnson – Geneva Rock Chris Campbell – Granite Const Co Skyler Droubay - Double D Dist Jared Dastrup - UDOT, Oils Host: Craig Fabrizio</p>	<p>Leadership & People AI in Construction: People, Projects, Problems and Possibilities. Presenter: Phil Fernberg – Assistant Professor – Utah State University Host: Rich Muirbrook</p>
Class Description	Session examines how asphalt pavement density is specified, measured, & verified today, while exploring emerging technologies & methods that are improving accuracy, consistency, & confidence in density measurement.	Session provides City & County practitioners with a practical overview of Asphalt Pavement Management Systems (PMS) & the Pavement Condition Index (PCI), followed by a review of the UAPA Asphalt Preservation booklet & a focused discussion on surface treatment strategies. Attendees will learn how data-driven decisions support cost-effective preservation & longer pavement life.	Session provides a national (NAPA) perspective on the asphalt industry, highlighting current federal policy developments in Washington, regional trends across the country, infrastructure funding outlooks, & key issues shaping the future of asphalt pavements.	Building on UAPA's national Hi-Mod Zoom call with more than 300 registrants from across the country, this session brings together UDOT and industry experts to discuss how high-modulus asphalt was developed, tested, and implemented in Utah, why it is now viewed as a 30-year pavement solution, and how it is being used by state and local agencies as a high-performance alternative to SMA and concrete.	This session explores how artificial intelligence is being applied in construction and building to accelerate workforce learning, improve project management, enhance quality control, and support better decision-making across projects and organizations.
2:20PM - 2:45PM	Networking & Vendor Visits				
	Room 200 A&B	Room 200 C&D	Room 300 A&B	Room 300 C&D	Room 400
3:00PM - 3:50PM Session #3	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE Keeping the Iron Hot - Basics of Asphalt Plant Maintenance, Setup, and Testing Presenter: Buzz Powell - Asphalt Pavement Alliance Host: Tim Nevenner</p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE Maximizing pavement life: Proven crack seal methods, material selection, and accountability. Presenter: Gus Leal-Isla – Egon, Inc. Host: James Clark</p>	<p>LEADERSHIP & PEOPLE Your EMR/EMOD...Unraveling the mystery behind your Worker's Comp safety score and how to keep your premiums low. Presenter: Joshua Schlichte - AJG Host: Craig Fabrizio</p>	<p>Leadership & People Micro-Learning That Works: Training Strategies to Build a More Productive Workforce & Organizational Culture Presenters: Jason CusKelly – Tyfoam Jake Hinckley - Suncore Host: Scott Fernald</p>	<p>TECH & INNOVATION Turning Lessons into Lanes: ASPIRE's National Initiatives and Electrified Roadway Pilots Presenters: Tyler Munk & James Campbell - USU Aspire Program Host: Nathan Longhurst</p>
Class Description	From cold feeds to silos, this session breaks down the fundamentals of asphalt plant setup, routine maintenance, and day-to-day testing that separate	Session provides a research-based overview of effective crack sealing practices & how proper material selection can significantly extend pavement	Much of how insurance operates can seem like witchcraft, but with EMR scores possibly being the difference in whether you get certain jobs or don't, you can't afford to not have a basic	How to leverage microlearning in today's mobile world to accelerate development, drive engagement, improve communication and create a better connection with your	Session provides an in-depth update on ASPIRE's National Initiative to advance transportation through smart, electrified roadways and

	<p>consistent producers from chronic troubleshooters. We'll focus on practical checks and adjustments operators can make before small issues become quality problems. The simple goal is better mix, lower cost, and compliant inspection.</p>	<p>life. Attendees will review key findings from industry studies on routed versus non-routed crack sealing methods, sealant performance testing, & field validation. The presentation will also offer practical guidance on selecting sealants appropriate for different climatic zones, helping agencies & contractors make informed decisions that improve long-term performance & maximize return on investment.</p>	<p>understanding of how they work. We will take a plain English approach to give you the tools (outside of simply not having work related injuries) to keep your EMR as low as possible in order to reduce workers comp premiums and make you more competitive when bidding.</p>	<p>workforce to reduce risk and increase performance.</p>	<p>infrastructure. Attendees will learn about cutting-edge pilot projects integrating wireless power transfer directly into pavement, along with the technical considerations, implementation challenges, & collaboration opportunities shaping the future of mobility.</p>
3:45PM – 5:45PM	<p><i>Family Night – Attendees can bring their families top play in the Staker Parson Sand Box, build Legos, visit vendors booths. Kids receive a hard hat and gather stickers from vendors. Treats will be available.</i></p>				
6:30PM - 8:30PM	<p><i>TOP GOLF – Register today!</i></p>				

2026 Utah Asphalt Conference Schedule

Day 2: Thursday, February 19, 2026

7:30AM - 8:30AM	Registration, Breakfast, & Exhibits				
8:00AM - 8:50AM	<p style="text-align: center;">Opening Session Welcome & Networking <i>Host/Moderator: Rick Johnson</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Recognize Friend of Industry Awards (Education, Industry, Government) (5 min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2026 Industry Leader of the Year Recognized (5 Min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">2025 Project Awards Announced (15 Min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">MATC Upcoming Site Visit- Derek Nener-Plante (10min)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Workforce Development: Scholarship Teams Present (15 min)</p>				
	Room 200 A&B	Room 200 C&D	Room 300 A&B	Room 300 C&D	Room 400
9:00AM - 9:50AM Session #4	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE <i>Designing the right subbase, the basics of ensuring your asphalt is on a solid footing.</i></p> <p>Presenters: <i>Travis Walbeck – NCAT</i> <i>Dave Johnson - Asphalt Institute</i> <i>Host: Dave Johnson</i></p>	<p>HOW TO <i>Street Repair 101: Practical Asphalt Fixes That Last</i></p> <p>Presenters: <i>Chris Robb – Maxwell Products</i> <i>Derek Andersen – Andersen Asphalt</i> <i>Host: Nicole Maxwell</i></p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE <i>RAP Well Fed - How to Improve Asphalt Quality While Lowering Cost</i></p> <p>Presenter: <i>Buzz Powell – Asphalt Pavement Alliance</i> <i>Host: Luke Bankhead</i></p>	<p>TECH & INNOVATION <i>Optimizing Paving Performance with the CAT SDX Screed Plate System</i></p> <p>Presenters: <i>Suresh Venugopal – Caterpillar Inc.</i> <i>Justin Hansen - Staker Parson</i> <i>Jesse Averett - Geneva Rock</i> <i>Sean Hall - Suncore</i> <i>Host: Jaden Simpson</i></p>	<p>Leadership & People <i>Hard Hats and Healthy Minds: Building Mental Readiness in the Asphalt Workforce</i></p> <p>Presenter: <i>James Smith – BYU Professor</i> <i>Host: Rich Muirbrook</i></p>
Class Description	Session covers the fundamentals of subbase design & construction, focusing on how proper material selection, preparation & compaction create a stable foundation that directly impacts asphalt pavement performance & longevity.	Session focuses on proven, practical asphalt repair techniques that help cities & agencies address common street distresses effectively, emphasizing methods that extend pavement life & reduce repeat maintenance.	Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) is already widely used in Utah—but lingering myths continue to limit its full potential. This session addresses performance concerns head-on, with a focus on mix design strategies, essential practices for production, ensuring value for owners/taxpayers & incentivizing innovation. Special attention will be given to parking lots & the strategic use of higher RAP contents in lower pavement layers.	Session introduces attendees to newer screed plate technology that is having a measurable impact on paving performance, mat quality, & compaction. Using the CAT SDX Screed Plate System as a case study, the discussion will focus on how screed design influences results in the field, while sharing best practices & principles that apply broadly across paving operations & are not limited to a single equipment manufacturer.	Session focuses on mental readiness & well-being in the asphalt workforce, addressing how stress, fatigue, & mental health impact safety, performance, & job satisfaction. Attendees will explore ways to build awareness, reduce stigma, & develop practical tools that help crews look out for one another & foster a safer, healthier work environment where concerns can be recognized & addressed early.
9:50AM - 10:30AM	Break & Prize Drawings				

	Room 200 A&B	Room 200 C&D	Room 300 A&B	Room 300 C&D	Room 400
10:30AM - 11:20AM Session #5	<p>HOW TO <i>Invisible Longitudinal Joints – Locking in Quality That Stands the Test of Time & Traffic</i> Presenter: Buzz Powell – Asphalt Pavement Alliance Host: Howard Anderson</p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE Preview of the FHWA Mobile Asphalt Technology Center (MATC) Visit to Utah Presenter: Derek Nener-Plante – DNP Infrastructure, LLC Host: Howard Anderson</p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE <i>From Lab to Field: Advancing Sustainable Performance with Chemical Warm Mix Asphalt Technology.</i> Presenter: Pouya Teymourpour, PhD, PE, - R&D Manager Asphalt Mixtures Arkema Host: Dave Kolesky</p>	<p>TECH & INNOVATION <i>From Chemicals to Cold: Exploring Today's Equipment Cleaning Innovations</i> Presenters: Sina Sharifan & Jacob Roach - Dry Ice Blasting Services of UT Brian Jennings & Steve Hampton - NuStream Inc. Host: Skyler Droubay</p>	<p>LEADERSHIP & PEOPLE <i>Developing Emotional Intelligence in yourself and those around you.</i> Presenter: Joshua Penrod - My Story Matters Host: Rich Muirbrook</p>
Class Description	Longitudinal joints remain one of the most common sources of premature pavement distress—but they don't have to be. This session walks through mix design impacts, proven techniques, equipment settings, & crew coordination practices that consistently produce tight, durable joints. Real-world paving scenarios will highlight what works, what doesn't & why.	Session provides a preview of the upcoming Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Mobile Asphalt Technology Center (MATC) visit to Utah, outlining what the MATC is, the technical focus areas it supports & what agencies & industry partners can expect from the on-site engagement.	Session explores how chemical warm mix asphalt technologies move from laboratory evaluation to field implementation, highlighting how these additives support sustainability, improve constructability & maintain pavement performance across a range of asphalt applications.	Session provides an educational overview of equipment cleaning options used in today's asphalt industry, featuring perspectives from two companies with different areas of expertise. One presenter will discuss the range of chemicals commonly used in asphalt operations, including products designed to support equipment cleaning & maintenance, while the other will focus on dry ice blasting as a non-chemical cleaning technology. Together, the session is intended to help attendees better understand available tools, how they are used, & how different approaches can support safe, effective, & efficient equipment maintenance.	In high-pressure industries, emotional control & personal clarity directly impact safety, leadership, & performance. This session explores how emotional intelligence helps individuals stay steady under stress, lead more effectively, & respond with intention rather than reaction. Attendees will learn how personal vision & emotional regulation support stronger crews, better decisions, & long-term success—on the job & beyond.
11:30AM – 12:00PM	Lunch				
12:00PM - 12:20PM	High School Presentations (20 min)				
12:30PM - 1:15PM	Host/Moderator: Rick Johnson Luncheon Keynote Address: Chad Hymas (45 Min)				

	Room 200 A&B	Room 200 C&D	Room 300 A&B	Room 300 C&D	Room 400
1:30PM - 2:20PM Session #6	<p>HOW TO <i>Work Site Setup: Setting up the Paver for Success</i> Presenter: Todd Mansell – Caterpillar Host: Jaden Simpson</p>	<p>HOW TO <i>Preserving Pavements from the Top Down: A Deep Dive into Chip Seals</i> Presenter: Travis Walbeck – NCAT Dave Johnson – Asphalt Institute Host: Nathan Longhurst</p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE High-Polymer Modified Asphalt Binders and Mixtures: Addressing Gaps and Advancing Opportunities from a National Perspective Presenter: Jhony Habbouche – Asphalt Institute Host: Luke Bankhead</p>	<p>CORE KNOWLEDGE WORKZONE SAFETY IN ACTION: TRAFFIC CONTROL & EMERGENCY RESPONSE Presenter: Earl Goodfellow – RoadSafe Traffic Systems Host: Nicole Shields</p>	<p>Leader & People <i>Why They Choose You: Influencing Decisions Through Strategic Communication</i> Presenter: Christian Hansen – Christianhansen.com Host: Gary Lindley</p>
Class Description	Session provides a practical, field-focused look at how successful paving crews plan & execute a productive paving day. We will walk through the critical coordination steps that take place before the first truck arrives, including aligning plant production with paving operations, managing paver speed & ensuring rollers & trucking are synchronized. Emphasis is placed on proactive planning & proper setup to achieve consistent smoothness, density & high-quality joints that meet performance expectations & specifications.	Session provides an overview of surface treatment options with a focused, in-depth look at chip seals, including design considerations, construction best practices, performance expectations, & appropriate applications	This session examines high-polymer modified asphalt binders & mixtures from a national perspective, highlighting how agencies & industry partners across the country are using these technologies to address performance gaps in traditional asphalt designs & advance durability, structural capacity & long-term pavement performance.	This intensive one-hour session provides a high-level overview of safe operations within active work zones. Participants will learn to identify common roadway hazards, implement basic temporary traffic control (TTC) measures, & execute safe positioning during emergency roadside incidents. The course emphasizes the "See and Be Seen" principle to minimize risks for both workers & the motoring public.	In a competitive marketplace, standing out is no longer about having the best product—it's about how effectively you communicate value. In this session, Christian Hansen, 2X international bestselling author & LinkedIn Top-Ten ranked expert, will share proven strategies for influencing how prospects, partners, & teams perceive & choose you. Attendees will learn how subtle shifts in language, communication style, & messaging can dramatically improve trust, clarity, & connection—ultimately driving stronger business & leadership outcomes.
2:30PM - 3:20 PM Session #7	<p>HOW TO <i>Optimize Density via Compaction & Effective Roller Patterns.</i> Presenter: Dave Johnson – Asphalt Institute Travis Walbeck – NCAT Host: Scott Fernald</p>	<p>HOW TO <i>Pavement Markings 101: Striping Basics, Best Practices, and Available Resources.</i> Presenter: Brandon Hardison – Interstate Co., UDOT Maintenance/Striping Host: Jonas Staker</p>	<p>TECH & INNOVATION <i>Smarter Mix Design: Using AI and Machine Learning to Improve QA/QC and Performance</i> Presenter: Beatriz Fieldkircher & Pedro Romero – University of Utah Host: Victor Johnson</p>	<p>Leadership @ People <i>Empower, Connect, Thrive: Women of Asphalt — Advancing Opportunity in Our Industry</i> Presenter: Alicia Winterstein – AECOM Host: Nichole Maxwell</p>	
Class Description	Session focuses on how proper compaction techniques & well-planned roller patterns directly influence asphalt density, pavement performance, & long-term durability, with practical guidance drawn from field experience.	Session provides an overview of pavement marking & striping fundamentals, including materials, application methods, safety considerations, & performance expectations, while also highlighting online resources that agencies & contractors can use to support proper installation and maintenance.	Session explores how AI & machine learning can enhance asphalt mix design & daily QA/QC by transforming historical production & laboratory data into predictive decision-making tools. Through real-world case studies, you will see how digital workflows can improve accuracy, reduce testing time, shorten design cycles & deliver measurable cost savings—while supporting, not replacing, engineering judgment.	Session introduces Women of Asphalt , a national organization dedicated to empowering women across the asphalt industry. Attendees will learn how the organization supports career development through mentorship, education, networking & leadership opportunities at no cost to members. Session will highlight how involvement can enhance professional growth, strengthen industry connections, & support workforce development while contributing to a more inclusive and resilient industry.	
3:20PM - 4:00PM	Raffle and Close Conference				