

# 2026 MAPA BLACK TO BASICS SPRING TRAINING



FEBRUARY 11-12, 2026  
WYNDHAM EXECUTIVE CENTER  
COLUMBIA, MO



# BLACK TO BASICS SPRING TRAINING

# 2026

FEBRUARY 11-12, 2026

WYNDHAM EXECUTIVE CENTER - COLUMBIA MO  
(FORMALLY HOLIDAY INN EXECUTIVE CENTER)

*February 11, 2026*

## DAY 1

8:30 A.M. TO 9:30 A.M.	REGISTRATION OPENS - <b>BREAKFAST IS ON YOUR OWN</b>
9:30 A.M.	GENERAL SESSION - OPENING REMARKS/WELCOME - WINDSOR III
9:30 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.	KEYNOTE SPEAKER - CONRAD HAWLEY, FORMER DUAL-SPORT POWER FIVE ATHLETE
10:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.	AUTONOMOUS PAVING - PATRICK LEMLEY, DELTA
11:00 A.M. TO 11:30 P.M.	SMARTER WORK ZONES, SAFER WORK ZONES - CHRIS ENGELBRECHT, MODOT
11:30 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.	2026 CONSTRUCTION SEASON OUTLOOK - BRANDI BALDWIN, MODOT
12:00 P.M. TO 1:00 P.M.	LUNCH - PARLIAMENT I, II, & III
1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M.	BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 BREAK OUT SESSIONS

#### **TRACK A - QUALITY CONTROL/QUALITY ASSURANCE - WINDSOR I & II**

BMD FIELD OPERATIONS SAMPLING, AGGING, RETAINED SAMPLES, AND TERMINOLOGY	DAVE MARSHALL	30 MINS
ACHIEVING DENSITY	DAVID CROCKETT	45 MINS
MODOT SPEC UPDATE	JASON BLOMBERG	30 MINS
IRI MEASUREMENT BEST PRACTICES	JON KLATT	30 MINS
ROADWAY Q&A ROUNDTABLE - Q&A DOC ROUNDTALBE BRAD STREET, ZACH BLANTON, KEVIN HARDEE/MODOT		45 MINS
MAINTAINING LAB EQUIPMENT	JUAN GONZALEZ	30 MINS

#### **TRACK B - BENEFITS OF ASPHALT DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION - POLO**

SMALL CITY CONTRACTING - HANDSHAKE DEAL OR 500 PAGE DOCUMENT	STEVE JACKSON	60 MINS
THIRD PARTY CONSTRUCTION INSPECTION	STEVE JACKSON	60 MINS
TACK COAT BASICS	MATT PETTIT	60 MINS
AUTOMATED PAVEMENT INSPECTIONS LEVERAGING AI & MOBILE SENSORS	DR. WILLIAM BUTTLAR	45 MINS

**TRACK C - ASPHALT PLANTS - WINDSOR IV**

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN PLANT, LAYDOWN, AND QA/QC OVERVIEW - PLANT OPERATIONS ON MIX QUALITY	CECILIA CAIN	30 MINS
AC PUMPS, CALIBRATION, WEIGH BRIDGE BELT SCALES, COLD FEED BIN SETUP AND GATE SETUP	GREG RENEGAR	60 MINS
STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT	BILL BEGGS	45 MINS
SEGREGATION SILO/TRUCK	GREG RENEGAR	30 MINS
HOW TO DIFFERENT BINDER GRADES, ADDITIVES, TEMPS AND STORAGE, OIL SAMPLING	CHASE GABBERT	30 MINS
ASPHALT TANKS, STORAGE, AGGITATORS, OIL MANAGEMENT, TEMPERATURE	KENT ERNST	30 MINS

**TRACK D - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - PICADILLY**

DRIVING BETTER RESULTS BY IMPROVING PEOPLE AND THEIR IMPACT	JOSH BUFFINGTON	225 MINS
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2:45 P.M. TO 3:15 P.M.	BREAK - ATRIUM AREA (BREAK TIME WILL VARY BASED ON BREAKOUT SESSION)
5:00 P.M.	ADJOURN FOR THE DAY
5:00 P.M. TO 6:00 P.M.	SOCIAL HOUR - ATRIUM LOBBY



# BLACK TO BASICS SPRING TRAINING

2026

FEBRUARY 11 - 12, 2026

WYNDHAM EXECUTIVE CENTER - COLUMBIA MO  
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DAY 2

February 12, 2026

7:00 A.M. TO 8:00 A.M.

BREAKFAST - PARLIAMENT I, II, & III

8:00 A.M. TO 10:00 A.M.

MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## **TRACK A - QUALITY CONTROL/QUALITY ASSURANCE - WINDSOR I & II**

BINDERS 101	CHASE GABBERT	45 MINS
RANDOM NUMBERS, SHOULDER CORES, ETC.	JONATHAN VARNER	30 MINS
BMD UPDATE	JASON BLOMBERG	30 MINS

## **TRACK B - BENEFITS OF ASPHALT DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION - POLO**

PAVEMENT PRESERVATION FROM A BROAD, INDUSTRY-CENTERED PERSPECTIVE	IAN MCCRAKEN	60 MINS
BUILDING A PAVEMENT PRESERVATION PROGRAM	ERIC LANDWEHR	60 MINS

## **TRACK C - ASPHALT PLANTS - WINDSOR IV**

UNDERSTANDING YOUR BAGHOUSE	GREG RENEGAR	60 MINS
HOW TO MAKE YOUR BURNER RELIABLE	GREG RENEGAR	60 MINS

## **TRACK D - PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT - PICADILLY**

DRIVING BETTER RESULTS BY IMPROVING PEOPLE AND THEIR IMPACT	JOSH BUFFINGTON	120 MINS
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10:00 A.M. TO 10:30 A.M.

BREAK IN ATRIUM

10:30 A.M. TO 12:15 P.M.

GENERAL SESSION - WINDSOR III

10:30 A.M. TO 11:00 A.M.

UPDATE AND INSIGHTS FROM ASPHALT INSTITUTE - MARK BUNCHER

11:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M.

THE STATE OF THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY & BUILDING HOPE  
THROUGH ACTION - BRANDON ANDERSON, AGC OF MISSOURI

12:00 P.M. TO 12:15 P.M.

WRAP UP & ADJOURN

## SPEAKERS



### **CONRAD HAWLEY**

#### *Keynote Speaker*

Conrad Hawley is a former dual-sport Power Five athlete whose journey from a self-focused quarterback to a selfless, team-driven basketball player reshaped his life and purpose. After moving to Colorado and working 65-hour weeks to rebuild his identity, Conrad discovered the power of discipline, humility, and servant leadership—principles that now define his message.

Today, Conrad is a national motivational speaker who has inspired Power Five football programs, Fortune 500 companies, annual business conferences, schools, first responders and entire communities. His talks blend raw personal experience with practical frameworks that teach people how to lead with purpose, elevate their habits, and become the strongest version of themselves for their teams, families, and future. Audiences consistently describe his message as energizing, authentic, and deeply transformative.



### **PATRICK LEMLEY**

#### *Delta Companies*

Patrick Lemley is a Construction Technologies Manager with Delta Companies and Arkansas Professional Surveyor with 25+ years of experience. He's passionate about helping teams work smarter by combining real world field knowledge with modern construction technology.



### **CHRIS ENGELBRECHT**

#### *Missouri Department of Transportation*

Chris Engelbrecht serves as Director of Safety and Emergency Management with the Missouri Department of Transportation. He coordinates the safety, security, emergency management, risk management, and training functions for the department. Chris started working with MoDOT in 1993 and has held positions in the occupational safety, emergency management, and risk management areas since beginning his career with the department.

Chris is a Certified Safety Professional and holds a Bachelor of Science in Safety Management from the University of Central Missouri.



## **BRANDI BALDWIN**

*Missouri Department of Transportation*

Brandi Baldwin is the State Construction and Materials Engineer for the Missouri Department of Transportation, where she oversees policies and guidelines for construction contracts statewide. A graduate of the University of Missouri-Columbia with a degree in civil engineering, Brandi has led major design-build projects and was inducted into the university's Academy of Distinguished Alumni in 2023. She is passionate about STEM and advancing the construction and engineering industry.



## **DAVID MARSHALL, P.E.**

*New Frontier Materials*

Dave spent three summers as an intern with MoDOT in the St. Louis District Materials section while attending the University of Missouri-Rolla. He graduated in 2001 with his Bachelor's of Science in Civil Engineering with an emphasis in materials. Dave spent approximately two years post-graduation with MoDOT St. Louis Materials and in 2003 went to work for Fred Weber, Inc. where he joined the Quality Control Department performing aggregate and asphalt plant inspection and designing asphalt mixtures. He became the Quality Control Manager for Fred Weber in 2005 and the Director of Quality Control in 2014. Dave is currently the Director of Quality Control for New Frontier Materials since they purchased the Quarry and Asphalt assets from Fred Weber, Inc. in 2019. He is a licensed Civil Engineer in the state of Missouri.



## **DAVID CROCKETT**

*SAKAI America*

David Crockett is the Asphalt Specialist for SAKAI America based out of the corporate headquarters & manufacturing plant in Adairsville, Georgia. He received his Bachelor's degree in Agribusiness and Master's degree in Ag Leadership from the University of Georgia located in Athens, Georgia. David has been involved in the US heavy equipment industry for over two decades at various manufacturers, spending several years at SAKAI America as well as Develon/Doosan and several industry leading equipment dealers. During this time, he has nurtured a broad portfolio of positive industry relationships with large paving contractors, state asphalt paving associations, DOTs, municipalities as well as accumulating their compaction best practices. He has been involved with NAPA for many years having served on various committees. David consults regularly with long-time paving experts within the SAKAI international umbrella and has traveled across North America presenting compaction training to contractors, DOTs, municipalities, and dealer audiences.



## **JASON BLOMBERG, P.E.**

*Missouri Department of Transportation*

Jason has been with MoDOT for 28 years. He spent 22 of those years with Construction and Materials, four years with Research, Development, and Technology, and two years with Materials Division. For the last three years, he's been working as Construction Liaison Engineer.

Jason received his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering from the University of Missouri—Rolla in 1997. Jason is also registered as a Professional Engineer in Missouri since 2002.



## **JON KLATT**

*Ames Engineering*

Jon has been with Ames since the company opened in 1996. He currently serves as General Manager and focuses on product development, product marketing, and customer support.



## **ZACH BLANTON, P.E.**

*N.B. West Contracting*

Zach earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Missouri S&T in 2018, receiving his P.E. license in 2024. He worked for two years at MODOT St. Louis in the Materials Department doing QA Asphalt testing. In January 2022, Zach began working at N.B. West Contracting and works on Mix Designs and performing field QC testing.



## **BRAD STREET**

*Garver USA*

Brad Street brings two decades of inspection expertise to the table, including five years in a quality control management role. His extensive background encompasses work on bridges, interstates, and highway projects. Notably, he spent seven years as an inspector for the Missouri Department of Transportation (MoDOT), where he focused on various aspects such as bridge inspections, pile driving, drilled shafts, MSE walls, and both asphalt and concrete pavements. His responsibilities also included overseeing pavement marking and signage installations, managing temporary traffic control, conducting earthwork grading, and performing drainage system inspections, as well as SWPPP inspections and materials testing. Additionally, Brad served as a construction technician with MoDOT, where he was responsible for sampling and testing construction materials, supervising contractor operations, and facilitating contracts. His experience extends to various roles within Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) projects, with significant involvement in asphalt initiatives throughout his career, including major interstate mill and fill operations to surface overlays on lettered routes. He possesses both plant and roadway experience, having worked on projects across the Kansas City, and Northwest MoDOT districts along with several projects for the Kansas Department of Transportation.



## **JUAN GONZALEZ**

### *Calibration Solutions*

Juan Gonzalez is the Calibration Supervisor at Calibration Solutions, where he has been a key contributor since joining the company in November 2013. Introduced to the industry through a family connection, Juan was drawn to calibration by the opportunity to learn something new every day, work hands-on with advanced testing equipment, and support customers around the country.

In his role, Juan leads sales and marketing efforts, supports operations, and trains and mentors' new calibration technicians. He regularly works directly with clients, performing on-site calibrations and ensuring laboratories maintain accurate, reliable, and compliant testing equipment. Juan specializes in Superpave Testing Equipment and nuclear density gauges and maintains close relationships with equipment manufacturers to stay current with evolving technologies and best practices.

Juan is passionate about customer service and takes pride in building strong relationships with clients, emphasizing professionalism, reliability, and trust. He is especially proud to have played a role in Calibration Solutions' growth over nearly 15 years and believes that knowledge transfer and mentorship will be critical to maintaining quality and consistency in the calibration industry as new professionals enter the field.

Known for his positive attitude and strong work ethic, Juan believes in staying motivated, working hard, and never cutting corners. Outside of work, he enjoys staying active at the gym and spending time with his family.



## **MATT PETTIT**

### *VanKeppel*

Matt spent 10 years as a Field Technician for a Heavy Equipment dealer. He then spent the next 20 years working for APAC and Journagan Heavy Highway Contractors. Matt has been with Van Keppel for the last 14 years serving as Road Group Manager.



## **DR. BILL BUTTLAR**

### *University of Missouri*

Dr. Buttlar holds the Glen Barton Endowed Faculty Chair in Flexible Pavement Systems at the University of Missouri-Columbia, where he oversees the Mizzou Asphalt Pavement and Innovation Lab (MAPIL), funded by members of the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association, or MAPA. Dr. Buttlar is also the Founding Director of the Missouri Center for Transportation Innovation and serves as Editor-In-Chief of Road Materials and Pavement Design. Dr. Buttlar has authored over 300 technical publications and has delivered over 100 invited presentations and keynote lectures across the globe. His areas of expertise include asphalt pavements, pavement cracking, data science in pavements including deep machine learning, and sustainable and resilient infrastructure materials. His recent work in the incorporation of ground tire rubber and recycled, post-consumer recycled plastic in asphalt pavement surfaces via the dry process has garnered considerable international recognition in recent years, leading to a number of recent keynote lectures and numerous media reports.



## **STEVE JACKSON, P.E., MBA**

*Bartlett & West*

Steve Jackson is an Employee Owner of Bartlett & West where his focus is leading communities to a better tomorrow. Steve served 7 years on the Board of Directors of MAPA and MAPA-REF. He has held several committee leadership positions with the National Asphalt Pavement Association in the areas of research, safety, environmental, and asphalt plant performance. Steve spent 27 years working for highway contractors including Hall & Riley, Pace Construction, and West Contracting.

Steve is a frequent advocate at the state capital to promote sovereign immunity for designers and contractors and increased infrastructure spending. Steve was elected to the Rolla City Council in 2024 and is seeking reelection in 2026. He has seen Metallica in concert 41 times and will travel to Europe in May for 3 additional concerts with his wife Stephanie.



## **CECILIA CAIN**

*Delta Companies, Inc.*

Cecilia Cain serves as the Chief Estimator for the Construction Region at Delta Companies Inc., where she oversees all bidding operations for both Missouri and Arkansas. She has been with Delta Companies Inc. for 15 years, bringing extensive experience across estimating, project coordination, and construction management.

Cecilia holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering from Pennsylvania State University. Upon graduation, she joined Delta Companies Inc. and began her career with Apex Paving Company. Her roles have included estimator, scheduler, subcontractor coordinator, and project manager—working as both a prime contractor and subcontractor on Missouri Department of Transportation and municipal projects throughout southeast Missouri.

From 2021-2025, Cecilia served as the Construction Manager for Delta North. In 2026, she stepped into the role of Chief Estimator, where she leads and supports the company's strategic bidding efforts across multiple states.

In addition to her professional responsibilities, Cecilia serves as Vice President on the Missouri Asphalt Pavement Association (MAPA) Board of Directors. She's also heavily involved with Women of Asphalt's Missouri Branch.

Cecilia resides near Jackson, Missouri, with her husband, Scott, and their seven-year-old son, who already loves all things construction and heavy equipment. When she isn't working or spending time with her family, Cecilia enjoys reading and fishing.



## **GREG RENEGAR**

*Astec Industries*

Greg Renegar joined Astec in 1983 and received a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering in 1985. Since joining Astec, Greg has worked in North America, South and Central America, China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, Central Asia, and throughout Europe as a field engineer, project engineer, and speaker. Greg previously held positions as Chief Engineer, and VP of Engineering. Greg became president of Astec Inc. in 2019, and is currently the VP of Customer Success.



## **BILL BEGGS**

*Martin Marietta*

Bill Beggs is the Missouri Valley District Quality Control Manager for Martin Marietta. He studied urban and environmental geoscience at the University of Missouri - Kansas City and has 30-years of practical experience in the construction materials industry.



## **CHASE GABBERT**

*Interstate Testing Services*

Graduate of Missouri State University with a B.S in Chemistry. Spent the first 8 years of career with Coastal Energy Corporation. Joined Interstate Testing Services in 2017, as Technical Director, specializing in Material Design with extensive technical experience of field application and plant processes. Currently serves as President of Interstate Testing Services.



## **KENT ERNST**

*Phillips 66*

Kent has 24 years of experience with Phillips 66 at the Wood River Refinery in Roxana, Illinois. He has held various roles including Transportation, Distribution, and Short-Term Planning. His responsibilities in Short-Term Planning included asphalt production, blending, and quality. For the past four years, he has served as the Phillips 66, Asphalt Technical Representative, overseeing the quality of asphalt binder produced at the Wood River and Lake Charles, Louisiana refineries, polymer modified asphalt production, and asphalt quality at nine mid-continent terminals.

## **JONATHAN VARNER**

*Missouri Department of Transportation*

Jonathan Varner graduated from Kansas State University with a degree in Civil Engineering. He is a licensed engineer in the state of Missouri. He works in the Field Office for the Missouri Department of Transportation reviewing mix designs, designing pavements and other materials related items.



## **JOSH BUFFINGTON**

*The CardenGroup*

Josh Buffington brings an abundance of diversified experience to his audiences. His strong presence leaves audiences with a will-do attitude toward improving areas of growth for better results.

Josh's experience as a high-level athlete and coach, along with real-world business experience in sales, sales management and entrepreneurial ventures, allows him to connect with people on many different levels. His passion is helping people get outside of their comfort zone, while always looking for ways to improve.

He understands it all comes down to people. Helping people create a connection between their work and their purpose helps impact their engagement and overall work productivity.

He has shared the stage with major business leaders, athletes, coaches and politicians and continues to impact audiences everywhere he goes.

Josh's family and his faith is what he deeply loves and lives for! He lives in Jefferson City, MO with his wife Jami and their 3 children...Rowen, Ross and Julia.



## **IAN MCCRACKEN**

*BioSpan Technologies, Inc.*

Ian McCracken is a Civil Engineer with BioSpan Technologies Inc., where he has worked since 2015. He holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology. At BioSpan, Ian supports engineering and quality control efforts while coordinating workflows across multiple projects and serving as a liaison between internal teams, distributors, and external partners. His work emphasizes technical support, training and product resources, and translating complex engineering information into practical, usable guidance that supports effective pavement preservation and long-term infrastructure performance.



## **ERIC LANDWEHR**

*Cole County Public Works*

Eric Landwehr grew up in Jefferson City and attended the University of Missouri - Rolla, graduating in 1996 with a BS in Civil Engineering. After graduation, he worked for nine years in the Design Division for MoDOT in the Central District Office in Jefferson City.

Eric was hired as the County Engineer for Cole County Public Works in August of 2005 and held that position until November of 2020 when he was promoted to Director. He currently oversees the Road and Bridge, Planning and Parks Departments with a workforce of 45 people and yearly budget of over \$20 Million.

Eric lives in Jefferson City with his wife and youngest son. His oldest son is also a civil engineer and works for a consulting firm in Jefferson City. He is married and has one child. Eric's middle son is also married and is a United States Marine stationed at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.



## **DR. MARK BUNCHER**

*Asphalt Institute*

Dr. Mark Buncher is the Vice President of Engineering for the Asphalt Institute (AI), working at their Headquarters in Lexington KY since 1998. The Institute's mission is to serve both users and producers of asphalt by advancing technology and improving pavement performance through programs of education, engineering, and research.

Mark manages AI's engineering and education programs, including the activities of AI's eight Regional Engineers located across the U.S. and Canada.

Prior to joining the A.I., Mark served in the U.S. Air Force for 16 years as a Civil Engineering Officer. He is a licensed Professional Engineer in Missouri, has his B.S. in Civil Engineering from Missouri University of Science and Technology, M.S. in C.E. from University of New Mexico, and his Ph.D. from Auburn University.

Mark grew up in Florissant, MO while his wife Cathy grew up in Steelville, MO. They met in college and together share 7 children and 10 grandchildren. Life is good.

## **KEVIN HARDEE, P.E.**

*Ideker, Inc.*

Kevin is a graduate of the University of Kansas in Civil Engineering and holds a Professional Engineering license in the state of Missouri. Upon graduation, he spent 3 years with MoDOT in the Kansas City design division. Following MoDOT, he spent 8 years with SemMaterials and Road Science as a Field Engineer and an Account Manager marketing and supporting alternate paving technologies and asphalt specialty chemicals. For the past 8 years he has been working as the Quality Control Manager for Ideker Inc. in Kansas City.



## **BRANDON ANDERSON**

*Associated General Contractors of Missouri*

Brandon Anderson serves as the Vice President of Safety at the Associated General Contractors of Missouri (AGC of Missouri). With over 27 years of experience in the construction industry, he has held a variety of roles ranging from field leadership to senior-level employee development positions.

A lifelong construction professional, Mr. Anderson is also a passionate advocate for total worker wellbeing. His area of strategic focus include mental health, suicide prevention, and substance misuse—issues he champions with both professional commitment and personal conviction.

In 2022, he co-founded and now co-chairs the AGC of America's National Task Force on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention. His leadership in this area has garnered national and international recognition and awards; including honors from the United Kingdom's Houses of Parliament for his leadership addressing mental health, suicide prevention and substance misuse in the construction industry.