

THE OHIO CENTER FOR ASPHALT PAVEMENT EDUCATION MAKES ITS DEBUT

This fall marked a major threshold for FPI's education and training efforts. Through the guidance of the Education Committee, the Ohio Center for Asphalt Pavement Education (OCAPE) has been created to be the focal point for hot mix asphalt (HMA) training in Ohio.

Last year, FPI held 14 schools which were attended by 437 people, in addition to co-sponsoring the Ohio Asphalt Paving Conference with ODOT which was attended by over 200 people. "Clearly FPI's training and educational efforts have reached the point where a more formal organization and approach needs to be in place to administer them" according to Don Weber, S.E. Johnson Companies, Inc., Chairman of FPI's Education Committee. Mr. Doug Anderson, Columbus Bituminous Concrete Corporation, Chairman of the FPI Board of Directors notes that "this makes a clear distinction between FPI's marketing and educational efforts".

The goal of OCAPE is twofold. First is to provide educational opportunities for FPI member companies. This includes personnel from top management to the roller operator. This year OCAPE is answering this challenge with an array of programs from a two-day media training workshop to schools on maintenance and operation of pavers and rollers. OCAPE will also be cooperating with other organizations to accomplish this goal. Don Weber cites the Local 18 Operating Engineers Union's week long school on paver operation which piloted last year. The Union established this school at the request of FPI and FPI member companies are providing state-of-the-art equipment and personnel to help with the training.

The second goal is to provide educational opportunities to specifiers and customers of the HMA industry. "A quality pavement starts with the person who buys it" says Doug Anderson. "He or she must specify the right mix type, binder grade and pavement buildup along with a proper foundation for placement. If any of these are not right, the job will not turn out as well as it could have regardless of the efforts put forth by the contractor." As such OCAPE is offering schools on specifying HMA pavements as well as asphalt concrete pavement design. OCAPE will also be cooperating with ODOT and the Local Transportation Assistance Program (LTAP) to provide HMA related training for state and local government employees as well as members of the engineering consultant community.

"We are really excited about OCAPE" says Fred Frecker, Executive Director of FPI. "It gives us the opportunity to take our training and education efforts to the next level." Frecker explains that plans are being discussed to establish an asphalt technician certification program which will incorporate required knowledge of the design, production and laydown aspects of HMA pavements. "We see this as comparable to what presently exists in the area of mix design with the Level I, II and Superpave certifications."