

## President's Message

# More education at Conference

**G**reat planning by great teams of members has the upcoming STMA Annual Conference shaping up to be our finest yet! Dr. Minner was flooded with applications during the "call for presentations." More than 100 practitioners and professionals offered to share expertise with us—far too many to use them all. These offers did allow us to expand the educational offerings by 40%, so you're going to have more topics to customize your learning experience. Dr. Minner is producing his fourth conference education program and with help from Conference Chair Abby McNeal and countless others, the conference bar is set very high this year.

You told us you wanted more education, so this year we added another day of education. Having the SAFE Golf Tournament and the first Seminar-on-Wheels tour on Tuesday allows for education on Wednesday. You told us you wanted additional science added to the conference, so Wednesday morning's optional education includes an Introductory and an Advanced Institute. Wednesday afternoon's pre-conference workshops are included in your conference registration fee. Or, choose instead to hop on a bus and take in an exceptionally good Seminar on Wheels tour.

Friday morning showcases an exciting new event. In partnership with the SAFE Foundation, STMA is paying tribute to Dr. Henry Indyk and Dr. Kent Kurtz. In separate presentations, the conference will honor the memory and life-long work of these STMA giants with high-end presentations on Field Testing Standards and Injury Surveillance Systems. Both men would be proud to see where STMA's conference is heading.

The Exhibition has added features this year. We'll be constructing a baseball pitcher's mound on the trade show floor! The opportunity to watch the construction process, step-by-step, will let us walk away with tips from the professionals on building our own perfect pitching platform. Student and faculty members will also treat us to poster sessions on their work. Posters will also highlight how last year's Student Challenge teams used their \$4,000 award for more sports turf education at their schools. The exhibition hall is primarily an opportunity for you to meet with our commercial partners, renew friendships, build new ones, and to gather information that we all can use to improve our facilities back home. This show is the roll-out for all that is tried and true, and new and improved.

The Awards Banquet is always the highlight of the conference for me, and it will once again be held on Friday night. Don't miss the opportunity to salute our members who have helped the profession and our association grow to great strength.

Your conference brochure should be on your desk. I've only touched on a very few of the exciting elements in which you'll want participate. Most of all, the conference is your chance to develop professionally. STMA is the association you can count on to elevate your career and this profession. Please do whatever it takes to get to Phoenix during the third week of January. I can't wait to see you there!



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