

February 22, 2012

Flash No. 26

January Luncheon Speaker

Zoe Richmond from Union Pacific Railroad was the guest speaker at the January 24, 2012 luncheon. Ms. Richmond is the director of Public Affairs for UP, and covers Arizona and New Mexico. She shared some of the history and scope of UP operations to a full room of SAEMS members. Covering 23 states and over 32,000 route miles, Union Pacific transports much of the goods and building materials we consume. And they do it with protection of the environment as a top priority. Their vision is to be recognized as the environmentally responsible transportation leader. It was Union Pacific, along with Dow Chemical in 1986, that founded Transcaer (Transportation Community Awareness & Emergency Response), a voluntary national outreach effort to assist communities prepare for hazmat incidents. UP supports local first responders with specialized training in managing a railcar spill or derailment. UP is the only rail line in Arizona that crosses into Mexico, and they employ Border Police, K-9 units, Gamma Ray Inspection, and Train Rider Identification Detection Systems to protect their assets and our safety. Union Pacific has proposed a new facility "Classification Yard" in Pinal County that has raised debate on environmental protection concerns, such as the impact on Picacho Peak State Park. The positive impact of the project includes the benefit of new jobs and increased tax revenues to the area. We want to thank Zoe Richmond for joining us at SAEMS!

February Luncheon Speaker

This month our luncheon speaker will be Claire Zucker, Director of the Sustainable Environment Program at Pima Association of Governments (PAG). Claire will be discussing, "Environmental Sustainability – Defining its Role in our Region's Future." Pima Association of Governments' new Sustainable Environment Program is building on its strengths in watershed and air quality planning as well as travel demand management to define its future goals and role in the community. The Tucson region is notably active in a wide range of sustainability efforts with both private and public sector involvement, but can we do more to make sure we are exploring all our option and promoting our successes to build our economic vitality? Claire will provide her perspective on this issue with focus on particular topics such as regional water coordination efforts, buffelgrass control financing, and low impact development implementation in an arid environment. Please contact Dan Williams at Daniel.Williams@uahealth.com by February 17, 2012 if you plan to attend the luncheon, you can register and pay via PayPal at http://www.saems.org/luncheon_info_frameset.htm. Late registrations (received after February 17, 2012) will be charged \$5.00 extra, and may depend on whether seats remain.

WRRC Brown Bag Seminars

The University of Arizona Water Resources Research Center holds weekly brown bag lunch seminars at the Sol Resnick Conference Room at 350 N. Campbell Ave. Please see their website at <http://ag.arizona.edu/azwater/events.php> for a schedule of topics. For more information, contact Jane Cripps at jcripps@cals.arizona.edu or 520-621-2526.



Zoe Richmond, Director of Public Affairs for Union Pacific Railroad, speaks to SAEMS members at the January luncheon meeting.

Looking to Get Involved in SAEMS? Here are Some Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities:

- SciEnTek-12 Foundation's Southern Arizona's Regional Science and Engineering Fair Judging at the Tucson Convention Center (TCC) on Tuesday, March 13th. Judges are needed to select awards for K-12 projects. If interested, please visit their website at www.sarsef.org. SAEMS is a major sponsor of this event!
- 18th Annual Tucson Earth Day Festival at Reid Park on Saturday, April 21, 9am – 2pm. Volunteers are needed to man the SAEMS face-painting booth. No artistic ability required – on-the job training provided. If interested, please contact Amy Charles (ALCharles@apachenitro.com).
- SAEMS Scholarship Review Committee. Looking for members interested in participating in the SAEMS Scholarship Review Committee. Activities include reviewing scholarship applications and interviewing finalists. Please contact Cat Schladweiler (cschladweiler@tep.com) if interested in participating.

City of South Tucson Environmental Workplace Development and Job Training Program

The City of South Tucson is pleased to announce that the first class of our Environmental Workplace Development and Job Training Program graduated on December 22, 2011. The program is being funded through an EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant awarded to the City of South Tucson. Our graduates completed a 7 week course of intense education to prepare for a position in the environmental workforce. Their coursework included training in Chemistry, Energy Auditing, Environmental Regulations and Permitting, Environmental Sciences, Geology, Green Remediation Technologies, Leadership, Lead-Based Paint Inspections, Photovoltaic Solar Panel Installation, Site Characterization, Site Mapping, Soil and Groundwater Sampling, Stormwater Management and Inspection, Sustainability, and Underground Storage Tank (UST) Operation, Regulation, and Site Assessment. Their final project included working as part of a team to complete a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of an automobile salvage yard in the City of South Tucson. The graduates also earned the following certifications: Certificate of Completion - Basic Remediation Technologies, 16-Hour Introduction to Residential Energy Auditing, 24-Hour Introduction to Photovoltaic Installation, 24-Hour Lead-Based Paint Inspector Training Certificate of Completion, 24-Hour Asbestos Building Inspector Certification, 24-Hour Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) New Miner Safety Certification, 40-Hour Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER), Adult CPR and Basic First Aid Certifications. A new curriculum is currently being developed for our next class which is slated to begin in March or April. For more information about our program and our graduates please contact: Derek Koller at (520) 551-7887 or dkoller@allwynenvironmental.com or Joel Gastelum at JGastelum@southtucson.org. Potential Employers and/or Environmental Professionals interested in mentoring our Graduates and Future Students through their job search and training should contact Derek Koller.

LEPC Business Education Seminar

The Pima County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) will be hosting a Business Education Seminar on Wed. Feb. 29th, 2012 from 8 am to 5 pm. The seminar will be held at the Desert Diamond Casino at 7350 S. Nogales Highway in Tucson. The seminar is free and lunch is provided. The seminar will provide important hazardous materials compliance and safety information, along with best management practices. The seminar is intended for business owners and operators, compliance personnel, local government and first responders.

Go to the LEPC webpage at <http://www.pima.gov/lepc/2012-business-training.shtml> for the seminar brochure and online registration form. Questions can be directed to John Wisner at John.Wisner@pima.gov. Emergency response and cleanup companies who wish to exhibit at the seminar should contact John Wisner. The cost is \$100 to be an exhibitor. Proceeds will be managed by SAEMS and will fund emergency response education in Pima County. Exhibitor payment can be made using the "Pay Online" tab on the SAEMS webpage at www.saems.org.

SAEMS 2012 – 2013 Board Nominations

The nominating committee for the 2012-2013 SAEMS board is currently seeking nominees! Our Vice-President, Dan Williams, and our Communications Coordinator, Sarah Hartwell, have agreed to remain on their post. The treasurer position is a 2-year term so Barb Ricca will be staying.

We have openings for the President-Elect and Secretary positions. However, the Vice-President and Communications coordinator positions are open to anyone who would like to run. Please submit nominations as soon as possible so our membership can vote.

2012 – 2013 Environmental Scholarships Sponsored by SAEMS

SAEMS is offering up to eight scholarships ranging between \$500 and \$4,000 for the 2012-2013 academic year. To be eligible you must:

- Plan on pursuing a career in the environmental arena;
- Be a current undergraduate or graduate student;
- Be a full or part-time student for the 2012-2013 academic year at the University of Arizona;
- Have a minimum GPA of 2.5 and satisfactory progress toward a degree (a minimum of 12 units completed).

Please see the SAEMS website for details regarding the application process. The application form is available through the SAEMS website at: http://www.saems.org/scholarships_frameset.htm. Please direct questions to the SAEMS Education Chair, Catherine Schladweiler (cschladweiler@tep.com).