



International Erosion Control Association

Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Andy Johnston

Phone: 512-314-3134

Email: andy.johnston@jacobs.com

Texas Civil Engineer Honored for Service as an Educator in the Regional Erosion Control Industry

Steamboat Springs, Colo. – Andy Johnston, a civil engineer with Jacobs Carter Burgess, Austin, Texas, has won the 2008 Educational Achievement Award from the International Erosion Control Association.

During his 34-year career as a civil engineering and water resources manager, he has been involved with a wide range of erosion and sediment control issues and practices for more than 27 years. Drawing on this experience, he has played a key role in providing training opportunities for erosion control professionals.

Johnston will receive the Educational Achievement Award during formal ceremonies at the annual IECA conference, Environmental Connection, in Orlando, Fla., Feb. 19, 2008. The award honors a demonstrated commitment to excellence in natural resource conservation and environmental protection through delivery of effective erosion and sediment control education.

As past president of the South Central Chapter of IECA, Johnston set up numerous training sessions for erosion control professionals throughout the Chapter's region of Arkansas, Oklahoma and Texas. Four years ago, he established the Capital Area Erosion Control Network. It enables professionals in the Austin, Texas, area to keep current on the latest erosion and sediment control practices, technology and regulations. The network features free twice-a-month brown bag "Lunch and Learn" technical sessions that cover a variety of timely erosion and sediment control topics. More than 90 sessions have been held to date. They have attracted biologists, contractors, engineers, geologists and government agency administrators and regulators.

"The sessions offer the opportunity to talk about issues and concerns in a non-confrontational way and to learn and help each other solve erosion and sediment control problems," Johnston says. "There's a lot of networking and cross-pollination of ideas. The success of this effort is due to the sustained support of the local sponsors who provide free meeting room space."

The sponsors include the City of Austin, the Texas Department of Transportation, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, the Lower Colorado River Authority and the City of Round Rock. JV Environmental and Lone Star GeoProducts provide free soft drinks and bottled water.

Last year, the success of the Capital Area Erosion Control Network prompted the South Central Chapter to launch a similar Lunch and Learn series to be presented in Dallas, Houston and San Antonio, Texas, Oklahoma City, Okla., and other cities in the region.

About IECA

The International Erosion Control Association (IECA) is the world's oldest and largest association devoted entirely to helping members solve the problems caused by erosion and its byproduct – sediment. Founded in 1972, IECA is a non-profit organization that serves as the premier global resource for the prevention and control of erosion.



International **Erosion Control** Association

This is the 17th year of the annual IECA *Awards of Environmental Excellence* program. The Educational Achievement Award is given to an outstanding program or individual who has demonstrated a commitment to excellence in natural resource conservation and environmental protection through delivery of effective erosion and sediment control education.

For more information about state-of-the-art educational events and materials, please visit our web site at www.ieca.org.

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