

Press Release July 10, 2017

IPRB CONDUCTS 8th ANNUAL OIL & GAS SUMMER EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR SCIENCE AND MATH TEACHERS JUNE 26-29

Teachers from 29 Illinois counties convened at the Double Tree Hotel at Mt. Vernon IL. for four days of activities to learn about the science, the business and the people of the Illinois oil and natural gas industry. Day one on Monday consisted of hands-on workshops for grades 3-12 to experience classroom-ready curriculum, materials and equipment. Teacher classroom kits valued at hundreds of dollars each, as well as all other cost of the Summer Program were provided free of charge to each of the seventy attending teachers. The Illinois Petroleum Resources Board (IPRB) designed the program to introduce teachers to all facets of the industry from geology to leasing, engineering, drilling and production, transportation, and refining oil into thousands of products we all use every day.

In addition to many topics covered by various industry specialists on Tuesday and Thursday, attendees participated in many hands-on activities and learning stations related to geology, geophysics and engineering. "Geologists' Ideas for the Classroom" focused on the fun of teaching geology to students by employing various aids in the classroom environment.

Wednesday was devoted to touring on-site drilling, production, and storage facilities in Southern Illinois. A northern tour bus traveled to the massive Patoka, Illinois Tank Farm hosted by Marathon Petroleum and Bi-Petro, Inc. Teachers learned about the importance of this storage and routing facility and the pipeline networks that safely transports oil to locations all over the U.S. Next host, Deep Rock Energy near Kinmundy, IL. explained about their unique operation near Forbes State Park. Demonstrations of an operating drilling rig, an active seismic wave generation truck, as well as a vehicle for the collection and interpretation of the resulting data were on display for the group. Teachers enjoyed lunch and conversation with the Webster family and employees. At the last stop Shakespeare Oil, near Salem, IL provided additional information about reefs and utilizing 3D seismic to find new optimum drilling locations, as well as methods to revitalize old wells that helps keep this historic "Tonti Field" active. Attendees also learned how rock cores help geologist interpret the possibility of an oil location, how oil field equipment is used, as well as planning and preparedness necessary to address any oilfield emergency that might occur.

The eastern tour began with Shakespeare Oil as above. However, this group witnessed a workover rig pulling / reinstalling pipe at an existing well. The tour proceeded to Carmi IL to visit with host, George Mitchell Drilling Co., at their yard and shop. Teachers walked on and toured the multilevel drilling rig and spent some time at the "dog house" learning about the rig's capabilities and about the hard working people that operate drilling rigs. Teachers also learned about the huge job of maintaining oilfield equipment and enjoyed lunch in the shop area with the Mitchell family and employees.

Next, the group traveled to Mt. Vernon, Indiana to explore the CountryMark refinery where much of the Illinois Basin oil is refined. CountryMark employees explained how oil is transported to the refinery and the various stages of refining oil into other products. Walk through Q & A tours of the refinery lab and control room were provided by Country Mark personnel responsible for quality control and refinery operations. Teachers learned that the Illinois Basin includes parts of Indiana and Kentucky. The primary retail market for CountryMark finished products is within these three states.

IPRB wishes to give special recognition to Illinois State University (ISU) and the local Regional Office of Education (ROE 13) for participation and guidance with the program. Teachers attend the IPRB Summer Education Program, along with other programs to meet their professional development requirements. Options for the IPRB program are two graduate credit hours from ISU or professional development hours from IPRB.

Special thanks to the Mt. Vernon high school administration for allowing IPRB to use the school laboratory for conducting experiments and instruction for IPRB's core science and core math curriculum. Thanks also to the Illinois State Geological Survey (ISGS), the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), as well as all of the industry participants in the Summer Program. More information and pictures will be made available at the website noted below. Planning is under way for the 2018 program. Contact Connie Eubanks at iprb@yahoo.com, if you would like to participate in the 2018 Summer Program.

The IPRB was formed to provide public awareness and education programs about the Illinois oil & natural gas industry and to clean up abandoned oilfield facility sites throughout the state. Funding for IPRB comes from voluntary contributions of Illinois oil and natural gas producers and royalty owners. For more information, contact the IPRB at iprb@yahoo.com or visit the website at www.iprb.org.