

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

July 2014

## Houston Area Safety Council provides critical services to industry

Back in the last century, 1990 to be exact, a series of tragic industry events led a group of petrochemical facilities to establish standardized safety training solutions. Thus was born the Houston Area Safety Council (HASC).

Due to its strategic location not far from the Houston Ship Channel, the HASC primarily serves the oil and gas (petrochemical) industry. It has become a global leader in customizable, state-of-the-art safety, health and environmental training, occupational medical services, contractor pre-qualification, and background screening and substance abuse program consortium solutions.

In the beginning, the HASC offered just one basic, but very important, safety course out of a fairly nondescript building in Deer Park, Texas. Now, almost 25 years later, that one course has expanded into over 1,500 different course offerings at an amazing, new, 34-acre campus in Pasadena, Texas.

Guided by President and CEO Luis Aguilar and Vice President Amanda A. Allred, the HASC mission remains the same, however, which is to be an innovative leader at building safe workplaces by improving the quality and integrity of the workforce.

"It is not a coincidence that Houston leads the world in safe work practices, and the need for



**Houston Area Safety Council, Pasadena, Texas**

safety training continues to grow each year. As a non-profit association, it is the Houston Area Safety Council's goal to provide innovative safety training and workforce development solutions, and our new campus is synonymous with progress," said Aguilar.

HASC membership is open to all who operate as independent contractors and service providers world-wide. The organization now provides services to over 400 site facilities, has 2,400 member companies and over 11,000 companies that use the Safety Council. The annual \$200 membership fee grants reduced pricing to members in good standing.

### New Pasadena campus

The new campus at 5213 Center Street reflects HASC's investment into the future of safety training and workforce development solutions. It has allowed HASC to expand safety training capabilities to meet the growing needs of the petrochemical, aerospace and food industries

in the Houston-area and beyond.

The expansive campus, designed by Kirksey Architecture and built by Tellepsen Builders, includes 65,000 square feet of training space. This Phase One building is LEED-Certified with multiple classrooms, an auditorium with 200 stadium seats, and 650 computers. The parking lot has room for 1,000 vehicles, a necessity, since HASC trains an average of 1,200 people each day.

Phase Two and Three of the campus construction will offer 27,000 square feet of commercial retail space and a 27,000 square foot Skills Development Building. This building will feature flexible workspace and provide turn-key, practical training solutions to meet the currently increasing workforce shortage of trained workers. It is expected to be completed late this year along with the commercial space.

A 17,000 square foot Occupational Medical Clinic is set for completion in early 2015. It will also be LEED-Certified and have

expanded space for current offerings.

### HASC courses and offerings

Since its founding in 1990, the HASC has delivered over 6,500,000 units of training with training units now exceeding 750,000

annually. HASC offers a variety of end-user tools to quickly verify site-entry requirements.

Training is computer-based and instructor-led including expansion into skills development. Courses include: leadership skills, site-specific and company-specific training, assessments, and technical, hands-on training. HASC also remains committed to improving efficiency and reliability of data.

Training records are maintained in a secure location on a secured network and are protected from natural and man-made disasters. Training records and course data are available at all times for reports and verification.

Occupational medical services are provided at a full-scale clinic by Thomas Hysler, MD, MPH, who is board certified in occupational medicine.

Services at the clinic include: 24/7 emergency injury care, physical exams, drug testing and collections, mask FIT testing, Pulmonary Function Testing (PFT), and audiometry. HASC has a mobile medical fleet, as well.

Expanding to meet the needs of industry and governed by a board of directors and one owner representative, HASC is certainly positioned to maintain its leadership role in innovative safety training and workforce development solutions well into the future.

## Lewis supports continued growth of aerospace industry

Throughout the year, NASA Johnson Space Center provides senior-level leadership to collaborate with economic devel-



**James Lewis**

opment entities in the greater Houston area by partnering with academia and various non-profit consortiums. Through this outreach initiative, James Lewis has begun working with the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership as its newest NASA JSC Executive Liaison.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell noted, "Over the years, this organization has been extremely fortunate to have access to the best and brightest minds at NASA through our Space Act Agreement with NASA JSC. In his brief time with us thus far, James has certainly contributed to our initiative

with the Pumps & Pipes consortium, and we look forward to working with him on other projects, as well."

Lewis stated, "This assignment collaborates specifically with the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership to support the long-term goals of growth of aerospace within our community, share information on future cross-industry collaborations, and forge strong and lasting ties both within and outside of the aerospace sector. I am looking to develop connections between NASA JSC and its surrounding businesses and gain strategic insight to potential partnerships that lead to stronger Houston-area commerce (e.g., commercialization of our technology) as well as demonstrate NASA's relevance on Earth."

Since November 2012, Lewis has worked as the deputy chief of the Mechanical Design and Analysis Branch within the Structural Engineering Division at JSC serving several roles: as a supervisor of a highly productive and creative branch team of 30 diverse technical personnel; a contributor in development of new and innovative mechanical systems and sub-systems requirements, design, analysis, test, verification, and system management for human space flight mechanical systems of government-furnished equipment projects, commercial crew and cargo vehicle developers, and the International Space Station; and for the division serving as organizational lead for all docking mechanism activities and as a contributing member of the division chief's management team.

For 20 years beginning in 1992, he was a NASA senior project manager who lead a government and contractor team developing the next generation space vehicle docking mechanism for use in future U.S. commercial crew and exploration missions.

Lewis received two Bachelor's Degrees from the University of Oklahoma in June 1992: Mechanical Engineering and Mathematics. He and his wife of 24 years, along with their son, 18, and daughter, 16, live in Clear Lake.

## BAHEP welcomes new members Johnson Traffic Design and Smarter HR Solutions LLC

### Johnson Traffic Design

According to a study released by Kirkland, Wash.-based data firm INRIX, Houston's traffic congestion ranks at No. 20 in North America among large metros, which is a big leap forward from its previous ranking of No. 8.

Undoubtedly, firms like Johnson Traffic Design have had a very positive



influence on the way Houstonians get around in the Bayou City.

BAHEP President Bob Mitchell stated, "I've lived in Houston all of my life, and I know what a huge difference it makes in the overall economy when people can get where they need to be when they need to be there. We're really pleased to have Johnson Traffic Design join us in our economic development efforts."

Matthew Johnson is the president of Johnson Traffic Design, which is located in the Clear Lake area of Houston.

He said, "Texas and Houston will only continue their phenomenal growth if modes of transportation and traffic engineering keep up with and surpass requirements. I look forward to working with BAHEP and being an integral part of this process."

Johnson Traffic Design's services include expert witness testimony and review, traffic signal and intersection design, all levels of traffic demand management, parking studies and design, traffic impact studies, site selection and circulation analyses, pedestrian and accessible

route design, wayfinding design, signing and pavement marking design, traffic simulation and modeling, traffic control plan design, TxDOT permit applications and field investigations.

Johnson Traffic Design's clientele include residential and commercial developers, cities, counties, agencies, other political subdivisions and engineering and architectural firms.

The company also serves the needs of industry with planned expansions and turn around traffic management.

Johnson emphasized that his firm develops innovative solutions using a common sense approach that melds a client's desires with the client's budget.

He stated, "Innovation does not require reinventing the wheel; it does, however, require understanding how to use the wheel."

For more information about Johnson Traffic Design, visit [johnsontraffic.com](http://johnsontraffic.com) or call 281.282.0022.

### Smarter HR Solutions LLC

Smarter HR Solutions LLC is focused on providing

effective and efficient staffing, training, and HR solutions to its customers with the highest level of professionalism and customer satisfaction. Its network includes recruiters who have over 20 years' experience in the industry and who are knowledgeable, certified and experienced in Human Resources Management, Training and Development, On-boarding, Outsourcing, Outplacement Services and Career Counseling.

Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, welcomed the company as one of the organization's

newest members saying, "We feel that our virtual staffing services are distinctive in this area and will be of great benefit to employers and employees alike. Whatever staffing requirements need to be met, Smarter HR Solutions always seeks to ensure that an organizational culture match is made so that each employee is the best fit possible."

Smarter HR Solutions' target market includes companies within the healthcare, specialty chemicals and plastic and oil and gas industries; however, the company can assist any industry with professional and para-



### SmarterHR Solutions, LLC.

professional staffing needs. Bellow added, "We also provide traditional as well as virtual staffing and training services, which are designed to provide companies with cost-effective solutions."

To learn more, visit [www.smarterhr.com](http://www.smarterhr.com) or call 281.245.3370. Smarter HR Solutions LLC is located at 2600 South Shore Blvd., Suite 300, in League City, Texas.

newest members saying, "Smarter HR Solutions LLC provides a unique virtual staffing service that certainly will help to address increased staffing and training needs as more and more companies relocate to and expand within the region."

Nicole Bellow, a senior human resources consultant with Smarter HR Solutions LLC, will represent the company within BA-

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