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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Construction industry leaders gather to advocate for construction workers well-being;  
Doug Parker, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, to  
provide keynote address**

*Construction Working Minds Summit to be held March 27-29 in Kansas City, Missouri*

**KANSAS CITY, Mo. (March 23, 2023)** – Building upon the success of the first annual Construction Working Minds Summit last year in Denver and the continued push for mental health awareness, the United Suicide Survivors International and the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP) will hold the second annual “Construction Working Minds Summit” in Kansas City, Missouri from March 27-29. For more information and registration, visit <https://www.constructionworkingminds.org/summit>.

Doug Parker, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, was recently announced as a keynote speaker.

Parker’s opening keynote, titled “Focus on Worker Mental Health,” will take place during the opening session of the Summit on Tuesday, March 28 at the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center.

Other keynote speakers include:

- Doug Parker, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health, will address the importance of the mental health movement and how it is related to job safety.
- Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas, President of United Survivors, event co-chair and an award-winning mental health advocate, will empower attendees to move from awareness to action.
- Dr. Charlie Cartwright, CEO of People Success Labs, will bring insight into the power and importance of human connections.
- Rich Jones, Chief Clinical Officer of Youturn Health, will explore substance use and recovery in the workplace.

- Ann Marie Dale will be sharing lessons learned from research on how employers can help with opioid risk reduction.

“We are thrilled to host the second annual Construction Working Minds Summit in Kansas City,” said Spencer-Thomas. “Our first summit attracted more than 180 attendees representing 115 organizations and four countries over one day of programs. This year, we have a day and a half of programming, five impressive keynote speakers and expect 350 attendees from the industry ready to learn from each other and build out the mental health movement.”

“There is real excitement for this Summit,” said Cal Beyer, VP, Workforce Risk and Worker Wellbeing for Holmes Murphy and event co-chair. “The construction industry is leading a powerful movement for workplace mental health and well-being. Thank you to the generous sponsoring organizations for helping make this an affordable and quality training event. More than 30 speakers and panelists will be sharing their organizational best practices. We’re calling more industry leaders to join this cause to improve worker well-being and save lives!”

The second day of the Summit includes an awards presentation for organizations and individuals in the industry for their “vocal, visible and visionary” leadership. 2023 award winners include:

- Mental Health Visionaries Award
  - Large Company (>1,500 employees): Gilbane Building Company
  - Mid-Size Company (<1,500 employees): Shawmut Design and Construction
  - National Association: Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
  - Regional/Chapter Organization: AGC of Washington
  - Union Category: Southwest Mountain States Carpenters
- Shining Light through Media Award: Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA)
- Academic and/or Applied Research Award: Cora Roelofs, University of Massachusetts Lowell
- Mental Health Champion: Doug Wilson, ABC SoCal
- Mental Health Champion: Craig Holzem, SMART 18

The Summit will return to Kansas City in 2024.

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### **About Construction Working Minds Summit**

The Construction Working Minds Summit takes a holistic approach to job-site safety, building out the mental health movement by moving from awareness to impact. The Summit is co-hosted by the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention and United Suicide Survivors International. Summit registration before Friday, March 24 is \$150. Registration after March 24 is \$250. Registration includes breakfast and lunch. Register here: <https://www.constructionworkingminds.org/summit>

### **About the United Suicide Survivors International, Inc. (501c3)**

United Suicide Survivors International (founded 2016) is an independent international membership organization that serves as a home for people who have experienced suicide loss, suicide attempts and suicidal thoughts and feelings, and their friends and families – collectively known as people with lived experience with suicide – to leverage their expertise for large scale change. We envision a world where lived expertise becomes the fulcrum that leverages all suicide prevention efforts. We put the lived expertise of suicide attempt and loss survivors into action through leadership, collaboration and advocacy. [www.UniteSurvivors.org](http://www.UniteSurvivors.org)

### **About the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention**

The Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP) was born out of necessity in response to a statistics released in a CDC study ranking construction as the #1 industry for deaths by suicide. Established by the Construction Financial Management Association (CFMA) in 2016 to shatter the stigma surrounding mental health issues, CIASP became a stand-alone 501(c)(3) organization in 2018 to raise awareness about suicide prevention and provide resources and tools to create a zero-suicide industry by uniting and supporting the construction community. CIASP is dedicated to changing the statistics by educating and equipping organizations, industry service providers and construction professionals to "STAND Up" for suicide prevention and address it as a health and safety priority. <https://preventconstructionsuicide.com/>