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Award Nominations Sought for Construction Organizations and Leaders That Have Advanced Employee Well-Being

DENVER, Colo. October 10, 2023 – The host organizations for the Construction Working Minds Summit, an international construction mental health Summit, announce a call for nominations for Summit awards from companies, unions and associations in the construction industry that have built innovative and effective mental health promotion and suicide prevention programs. In addition, we also seek nominations for leaders in research and media who are advancing the cause.

Close to 5,000 construction workers die by suicide annually – five times the number of on-the-job accidents. “Over the last several years, the construction industry has made substantial advancements in tackling tough mental health challenges like depression, substance use issues, other addictive behaviors and suicide. We want to acknowledge those that have gone above and beyond,” said Dr. Sally Spencer-Thomas, president of United Suicide Survivors International and event Co-Chair.

United Suicide Survivors International (United Survivors) is partnering with the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP) to organize the 3rd annual Construction Working Minds Summit in Kansas City, MO from February 26-29, 2024. This year’s theme is “Scaffolding and Scaling: Reaching all with Construction Mental Health Promotion, Suicide Prevention, and Addiction Recovery”.

In addition to nominations now being accepted for “Mental Health Visionary” awards, media

companies/organizations are sought for a “Shining Light Through Media” award, and researchers are invited to apply for the “Academic and/or Applied Research” award. Recipients will be recognized in an awards ceremony gala at the summit, on social media and via other publicity efforts. Both self-nominations and nominations by third-parties are welcome. [See application form for further details.](#)

Awards include:

Mental Health Visionary Award Categories:

- **Large Construction Company (> 1,500 employees)**
- **Mid-Size Construction Company (≤ 1,500 employees)**
- **National Association** - *Trade group supporting protection of rights and interests*
- **Regional/Chapter Organization** - *Representing members and not-for-profit community*
- **Local Union**

Shining Light Through Media Award

Academic and/or Applied Research Award

“These awards allow individuals/organizations who work tirelessly in support of mental health and suicide prevention in our industry to be acknowledged for their selfless contributions towards educating and removing stigma. They are the true champions of this cause and deserve to be recognized for leading the way,” said Sonya Bohmann, Executive Director with Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention and Co-Chair of the Summit.

“Acknowledging and recognizing organizations and individuals that are committed to worker mental health should be a catalyst to others to step up and do the same,” said Greg Sizemore, Board Chair of the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention. “It establishes a platform from which any organization can learn and apply best practices throughout their companies and the construction industry. Leadership’s commitment and a caring corporate culture create the conditions for all employees to work safely and be mentally healthy.”

The Summit is intended for all advocates of construction worker well-being and features speakers, roundtable discussions, case studies, and best practices among other content. There are five content tracks including innovations in mental health promotion, suicide prevention, culture of care and psychological safety, root causes for mental health challenges, and substance use disorders and addictive behaviors. For more information and registration:

<https://www.constructionworkingminds.org/summit>.

AWARD APPLICATION DEADLINE: November 10th, 2023
APPLICATION FORM: <https://form.jotform.com/232746458823061>

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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

About the Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (501c3)

The Construction Industry Alliance for Suicide Prevention (CIASP) was born out of necessity in response to a statistic 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/>