

ENERGY SCENE

BY JASON SPIESS

PHOTOS BY CRUDE LIFE PHOTOGRAPHY/PAUL FLESSLAND

The Rocky Mountain Energy and Infrastructure Summit was held in Jackson Hole, Wyo., August 21-23. The event is an off-shoot of the annual Rocky Mountain Economic Summit, which draws some of the top business and economic minds on the planet to Jackson Hole.

“The Energy Summit will be very similar to the Economic Summit in terms of exclusivity and prestige, but the core of the conference, like the Economic Summit, is the ability to spend time talking with real players in the industry,” said Brian Hymel, conference co-founder.

Due to the intimate venue and setting, the Rocky Mountain Energy conference only allows capacity for around 500 people. Including speakers, employees and other event-related personnel, attendance reached about 350.

“This isn’t an event where you sit in a booth and give away pens and mugs with logos on them,” Hymel said. “Our events attract the world’s top brands because we attract industry leaders. This event features some of the top minds on the planet along with some of the wealthiest people in the industry.”

The conference coordinators emphasize knowledge and the relationships that are built over good conversation and shared interest.

“For us, it’s not about making money from a conference; it’s about constructive dialogue between the broad spectrums of energy-related companies, policy makers, and the public to help foster change for the betterment of U.S. energy independence and policy.”

According to Hymel, there has been considerable change in technology for oil and gas over the last seven years, and “there is still an astonishing amount of innovation and efficiencies yet to be had.” He added that one of the key goals for the summit is to help bridge gaps and speed up innovation processes.

If the Rocky Mountain Energy conference is anything like the Economic Summit, attendees will leave Jackson Hole with a new view on the global energy economy, in which the Bakken happens to be playing a significant role. ○

Learn more about the event by visiting www.rmenergysummit.com



Dr. Loren Scott, President and Founder, Loren Scott & Associates, Baton Rouge



Rolls Royce, one of the many event sponsors



Matthew D. Cabell, President, Seneca Resources Corp; Jerry Moyes, Chairman, Founder & CEO, Swift Transportation and Ron Jibson, CEO, Questar Corporation, participate in a distribution and transportation panel



An outdoor break at the Rocky Mountain Energy and Infrastructure Summit



Retired NBA All-Star Mark Eaton, Utah Jazz (left) and Hero Partners Chairman, Rob Ryan, Bitterroot Valley, MT (right)



An indoor shot of a break at the Rocky Mountain Energy and Infrastructure Summit



US Senator (R-WY) John Barrasso holds up a copy of the Jackson Hole newspaper featuring the summit



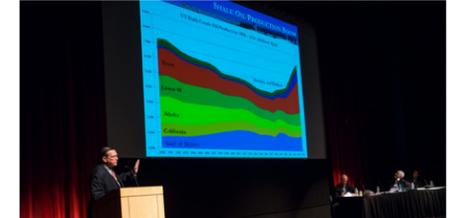
Wyoming Governor Matt Mead welcomes the attendees to the state and event



Brian Hymel, co-founder of the Rocky Mountain Energy and Infrastructure Summit



Donald F. Santa Jr., President and CEO of the Interstate Natural Gas Association of America, participates in a pipeline and distribution panel



Kelly Wilkins, Senior VP of Business Development, Bridger Company, participates in a panel on Petroleum



Steven Ledbetter, president Jiffy Lube



David McCurdy, president of the American Gas Association

MISSION VETS HELPS BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN THE END OF SERVICE AND BEGINNING OF CIVILIAN LIFE

BY CHAD HAYS

Mission Vets was formed after the VA decided to cut funding to B2O, sighting a law passed right after the Vietnam era conflict, that said schools had to wait 2 years before being eligible for federal funding. The intent was to limit all the mom and pop schools that sprung up taking advantage of the government money, and not really helping Vets.

Well in the case of B2O; they had a 97% placement rate, and despite the fact that PEC has been in the education/safety business for over 20 years, the VA didn't see fit to give them a waiver.

Given the fact that Vets are already having to wait months for their education and health

benefits, due to backlogs and bureaucracy, and the high rate of Veteran suicides, (22 A DAY!) I thought it was ridiculous to make these heroes wait to get their education and a good job.

I decided to turn to the private sector to make them aware of the plight of our Vets, and to raise money to help these deserving heroes get on with their lives.

B2O has placed over 200 Veterans in jobs and is currently awaiting my efforts to fully fund and re-launch the program. ○

Find more information at <http://www.missionvets.org/>



“The funds I received for the B2O program saved and changed my life. It gave me a great career, awesome education that I got to put to use out here, and an even better financial future for my family! Thinking about going? Do it. Stop wasting time.” - Kelani “Tai” Velasco (pictured left)

“After finishing the program, I actually got hired by [an oilfield training provider] as an instructor. I worked with them for 6 months on a major project and provided training in Houston as well. After 6 months, I got hired by [an oilfield contractor], which provides contract work to [a large operator]. I was working as their trainer/safety coach for a couple months, when they asked if I was interested in training to become a project lead, aka company man. That's where I am right now. I'm currently in month 4 of 6 of training to be a company man for their facilities group which is in charge of building production facilities in the Eagle Ford area. The training from the B2O program was great and played a key role in my development. Best decision I've ever made!” - Francisco Javier Quezada (pictured right)