

## ATA Honors Mike Russell Trucking Industry Image Award Winners

**San Diego** – Today, American Trucking Associations honored two individuals, a state trucking association and an allied company with the eighth annual Mike Russell Trucking Industry Image Award.

“Every day we think about the image of the trucking industry and work to improve it from a company standpoint and personally,” said ATA Vice Chairman Kevin Burch, president of Jet Express Inc., Dayton, Ohio. “The awards we presented today celebrate a company, organization or individual who over the past year has worked tirelessly to generate positive awareness of the trucking industry.”

This year’s first three winners were:

- Great West Casualty Co. for their tremendous support, particularly from Steve Ponder, vice president, during the development and launch of the Trucking Moves America Forward image movement and sustaining it today;
- The Texas Trucking Association for their organization’s tireless work in the Lone Star State to spread the message of safety, essentiality and leadership and;
- Mike Card, past ATA chairman and president of Combined Transport, who has served as national fundraising chairman for Trucking Moves America Forward and used his platform as ATA chairman get the movement off the ground.

In addition, ATA Chairman Phil Byrd announced that Kevin Burch was also being honored with a Mike Russell Trucking Industry Image Award for his passion for the industry, his commitment to improving its image and his tireless work with Trucking Moves America Forward.

The Mike Russell Trucking Image Awards are named in honor of the late Mike Russell, a trucking industry supporter and former ATA vice president of public affairs, and are sponsored by [TMW Systems](#).

“The Mike Russell Image Awards should also help us recognize that the trucking industry is perhaps more vulnerable than ever to negative coverage in the media and skewed perspectives by the public,” said David Wangler, CEO of TMW Systems. “The work of promoting the good that people in this industry do – as well as the critical and very responsible role that trucking plays in our economy. TMW Systems is proud to sponsor these image awards once again to honor exceptional leadership and contributions to this important effort.

“It is vital to educate our public officials, lawmakers and the media, as well as the general public, on how safe and essential trucking is. It is our pleasure to participate in recognizing those who have helped promote a positive image for this critical industry.”

*[American Trucking Associations](#) is the largest national trade association for the trucking industry. Through a federation of 50 affiliated state trucking associations and industry-related conferences and councils, ATA is the voice of the industry America depends on most to move our nation’s freight. Follow ATA on [Twitter](#) or on [Facebook](#), [Trucking Moves America Forward](#)*

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## ATA Names Second Class to LEAD ATA Program

**San Diego** – Today, American Trucking Associations named its second class to the LEAD ATA industry leadership program, as well as announced the graduation of the inaugural class during the annual ATA Management Conference & Exhibition.

“Trucking is a truly diverse industry and that diversity is reflected in this, the second class of LEAD ATA,” ATA President and CEO Bill Graves said. “These 13 driven individuals have a lot to live up to as our first class was so engaged and committed to excellence in our industry”

Sponsored by PeopleNet, the program will provide exclusive educational opportunities designed to highlight how the regulatory and legislative process affects the trucking industry and the important role ATA plays in shaping both, as well as demonstrating the many tools available to industry executives through ATA.

“When we announced LEAD ATA last year, it was our hope we would attract the best and brightest in trucking and give them the tools to guide our industry and ATA into the future,” said Kevin Burch, ATA vice chairman and president of Jet Express, Dayton, Ohio. “We succeeded with our inaugural class and I cannot wait to see what this next group has to offer ATA and the trucking industry.”

“PeopleNet is proud to not only sponsor, but have the opportunity to participate in the distinguished LEAD ATA program for the second year in a row,” said PeopleNet President Brian McLaughlin. “Having the opportunity to meet and work with these aspiring young executives is truly exciting and we are anxious to meet the 2015 LEAD ATA class members.”

### **2015 LEAD ATA Class:**

Trevor Spring, Energy Dispatch LLC; Rebecca Pohl Liette, Pohl Transportation Inc.; Lisa Black, FedEx Corp.; Jaime Maus, Werner Enterprises Inc.; Travis Russo, U.S. AutoLogistics LLC; Brandon Woods, Refrigerated Transport Inc.; Scott Beaves, FedEx Ground; George Fetsko, FedEx Ground; Anne-Marie Hulsey, U.S. Legal Services; James Winton, Trimac Transportation Inc.; Elizabeth Pemmerl, NIC Technologies; Mason Guillot, Triple G Express and Nataly Byrce, Preferred Materials Inc.

### **2014 LEAD ATA Graduates:**

Robert Haag, Perfect Transportation LLC; Michael Clifford, Ventura Transfer Co.; Doug Bennett, U.S. AutoLogistics LLC; Jason Tempalski, FedEx Ground; Tim Chrulski, Garner Transportation Group; Martin Tewari, Con-way Truckload; Casey Diaz, Charles Diaz Trucking Inc.; Chelsea Pottle, Pottle's Transportation LLC; Robert Loya, California Cartage Company LLC; Richard Hoyle, Trimac Transportation Inc.; Chad Brueck, CRST International Inc.; Dustin Koehl, Total Transportation of Mississippi LLC; Charles Delacey, Kenan Advantage Group; Brent Bois, Calhoun Truck Lines; Larry Barnes, Interfor US Inc. and Stephanie Fisher, YRC Worldwide Enterprise Services.

For more on LEAD ATA click [here](#).

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