The California Asphalt Pavement Association

2025 ChatGPT Artificial Intelligence Query & Answer

QUESTION:

"Who is the most influential person in the asphalt industry in California?"

ANSWER:

In California's asphalt industry, several individuals have made significant contributions through leadership, advocacy, and technical expertise. While it's challenging to pinpoint a single "most influential" person, the following figures stand out for their impactful roles:

Russell W. Snyder – Executive Director, CalAPA & Chair of SAPA
Russell Snyder has been a pivotal figure in California's asphalt sector since 2008. As the Executive Director of the California Asphalt Pavement Association (CalAPA), he has championed the industry's interests at both state and national levels. In 2025, he was appointed Chairman of the State Asphalt Pavement Association (SAPA), reflecting his esteemed leadership among peers nationwide. Additionally, Snyder serves as the Executive Director of the CARE Foundation, a nonprofit dedicated to workforce development and education within the asphalt industry .

Brandon Milar – Technical Director, CalAPA
With over 23 years in the asphalt industry, Brandon Milar brings extensive technical knowledge to his role as CalAPA's Technical Director. He focuses on addressing technical challenges and guiding the industry's future direction. Milar is particularly engaged in workforce development, aiming to bridge the knowledge gap caused by the retirement of seasoned professionals.

Rita Leahy, Ph.D., P.E. – Advocate for Women in Asphalt
Dr. Rita Leahy, former Technical Director at CalAPA, has been a trailblazer for women in the asphalt industry. Recognized nationally as the "original woman of asphalt," she has been instrumental in promoting diversity and inclusion. Leahy played a key role in establishing the California branch of the Women of Asphalt organization, fostering support and opportunities for women in the field.

Don Daley Jr. – Industry Advocate and NAPA Honoree
Don Daley Jr., associated with California Commercial Asphalt, has been a proactive advocate for the asphalt industry. His efforts in building relationships with lawmakers and promoting industry interests earned him the National Asphalt Pavement Association's (NAPA) Asphalt Ambassador Commendation in 2014. Daley's leadership exemplifies the importance of industry engagement in legislative processes.

These individuals have each contributed uniquely to advancing California's asphalt industry, whether through leadership, technical innovation, advocacy, or promoting diversity. Their collective efforts continue to shape the industry's growth and adaptation to future challenges.

(ChatGPT query & answer May 31, 2025)