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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Steve Perry

[Buffalo.Agency](http://Buffalo.Agency)

703.967.6571

[sperry@buffalo.agency](mailto:sperry@buffalo.agency)

**Sports Turf Managers Association Conference Sets Record Participation**

**(LAWRENCE, Kan.)** – The [Sports Turf Managers Association](http://SportsTurfManagersAssociation.com) (STMA) – comprised of 2,700 men and women professionals overseeing sports fields worldwide and critical to athletes’ safety – reached record participation at its 29<sup>th</sup> annual STMA Conference & Exhibition in Fort Worth, Texas, Jan. 16-19.

The Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Bureau confirmed the community received an estimated \$3.2 million monetary injection. This included \$1.46 million in direct sales from food and beverage consumption, business services expenses and lodging costs. The event contributed nearly \$300,000 in taxes, while creating demand for 363 jobs throughout the week.

More than 1,500 attendees from 14 countries participated in the four-day event. A “Seminar on Wheels Tour” at professional, collegiate and youth sports complexes in Dallas-Fort Worth complemented nearly 50 education sessions, sports turf exhibits and networking with environmental science leaders.

“Thousands of members traveled domestically and across oceans to share innovative ideas and best practices,” says Sarah Martin, Certified Sports Field Manager (CSFM), newly-elected STMA President and Foreman I and Turf Manager at Reach 11 Sports Complex for the City of Phoenix. “The knowledge our members gained during the conference is extremely valuable in helping them manage field surfaces at the safest level possible for their athletes.”

SAFE, the association’s charitable foundation, raised more than \$23,000 through an outing at Topgolf, a “Night of Bowling” and silent and live auctions. Proceeds benefit educational programs, scholarships and grants enriching communities through safe, sustainable sports and recreation fields.

Award winners recognized included “Field of the Year” recipients in professional, collegiate and schools and parks categories. The prestigious Founders Award for significant contributions to the profession was bestowed to:

- Dick Ericson Award: Paul Burgess, CSFM, Real Madrid, Estadio Santiago Bernabeu, Madrid, Spain
- George Toma Award: Dan Bergstrom, CSFM, BBVA Compass Stadium, Houston, Texas
- William H. Daniel Award: James Brosnan, Ph.D., University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn.
- Harry C. Gill Award: Tim Moore, CSFM, GCA Services, Columbia, Md.

Winners of the “Student Challenge Cup,” based on proctored exams covering the sports turf industry, included: Iowa State University (first place, four-year program), Purdue University (second place, four-year program), University of Maryland (third place, four-year program); Mt. San Antonio College (first place, two-year program), Mt. San Antonio College (second place, two-year program) and Pennsylvania State University (third place, two-year program).

Since 1989, STMA hosted its annual convention in major cities across America. The 2019 and 2020 editions will be in Phoenix and West Palm Beach, Fla., respectively.

[STMA.org](http://STMA.org) | [Facebook](#) | [Instagram](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Twitter](#) | [YouTube](#)  
More information: 800.323.3875.

### **About STMA**

STMA is the non-profit, professional association for men and women who manage sports fields worldwide. Since 1981, it has provided education, information and practical knowledge in the art and science of sports field management. More than 2,700 members across 34 local chapters oversee facilities at schools, colleges and universities, parks and recreational facilities, and professional sports stadiums. Sports include football, baseball, soccer, lacrosse, softball, rugby and horse racing.

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