



Students at the 2022 UCT Conference.

## Purdue Underground Infrastructure Team Organized Student Delegation to 2022 UCT Conference

In the summer of 2020, Dr. Iseley joined Purdue University's Division of Construction Engineering and Management (CEM as a Beavers Heavy Construction Distinguished Fellow and Professor of Engineering Practice. He has since formed the Underground Infrastructure Team (UIT), which currently includes Wei Liao, Saleh Behbahani, Kibum Kim, KwangHyuk Im.

A key mission of UIT at CEM is to expand the impact of Purdue's underground engineering field in the industry and to attract more young generations to this area. Exposing students to as many events in the industry as possible is an important initiative to achieve this mission. The Underground Construction Technology (UCT) conference is a great place for the students to be involved and interact with experts from the heavy civil and underground construction industry. Dr. Iseley was an instructor for two courses at Purdue in the 2022 spring semester: the Development of Underground Space (DUS) and the Construction Business Management (CBM). He reached out to the students to see whether they are interested in attending the UCT conference on Jan 25-27, 2022 in Fort Worth, Texas. About 30 students expressed their willingness to attend the UCT. To ease the financial burden on students and build strong work-

ing relationships between industry and Purdue CEM., he decided to seek industry support for sponsorship. Gratefully, the following companies provided various levels of financial support: ACE Pipe Cleaning, Bowen Engineering, Boyer Inc., BrainDrip, Danby, National Water Main Cleaning, PVC Pipe Association, QuakeWrap, SAK, and Waterline Renewal Technologies. These companies made it possible to implement this activity.

We were fortunate to have a 25-member Purdue delegation (including 22 students) at UCT. In order to make their conference experience more focused and productive, each student was assigned tasks prior to departure, such as conducting issue-specific research interviews with exhibiting companies and attending presentation series of their own interest. After the conference, students were required to report on the results of their participation and present them in the classroom. Some questions were set: What kind of business organization do they have? what is their focus? what is their mission statement? and what do they do to motivate employees? etc. Also, Purdue CEM had a booth in the UCT exhibition hall. This helped to introduce the Purdue CEM program to people who visit the booth.

Most of the students were very conscientious in com-

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www.itpipes.com .....47

**PipeMedic by QuakeWrap**  
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