

Foundation for Success

CIMA Energy Ltd. Recognized for Highest Revenue



Thomas K. Edwards



Michael D. Rupe

In 1996 CIMA Energy Ltd. made its first appearance in the oil and natural gas industry. Over the past 18 years CIMA has grown into a multi-billion dollar company that is focused on the success of their customers. Founders Thomas K. Edwards and Michael D. Rupe both graduated from Texas A&M and it's clear from CIMA's mission that they implement the core values they gained as students into their company. CIMA received this year's Summit Award, a remarkable feat for a company that has previously been awarded a spot in the Aggie 100 list three other times. Both Edwards and Rupe agree that their time at Texas A&M had an invaluable impact on their lives and business.

Will you tell us about a cherished memory you have of your time at A&M?

Edwards: Graduating in 1988 with a Petroleum Engineering degree (PETE) and a job while crude oil was selling for \$14 per barrel.

Rupe: Walking across the stage and looking in the tube and seeing my diploma. Thinking to myself that I just became a permanent part of one of the greatest institutions in America (Texas A&M Graduates)!

How has your Aggie Education and the Aggie Network impacted your career?

Edwards: While I was attending A&M, the PETE department attained the No. 1 spot in college rankings and has stayed there. That helps a lot from a credibility standpoint. I was hired by B.P. Huddleston, a visiting

professor in the PETE department and distinguished alumni. He was a great mentor and role model. It was a great experience, and I worked with a lot of great Aggies in the energy industry. That exposure and those connections gave me and CIMA a great start.

Rupe: You can get an education anywhere. In fact, I went to four different schools before graduating from A&M. What you can't get from everywhere else is the foundation for success. The education process at A&M is not just about studying. It is the type of people you are around, the expectations the Aggie community places on itself, the overwhelming desire for selfless service to society, the Aggie Code of Honor etc. Put all of this together and you get graduates who have a work ethic to succeed in all facets of work and life.

What does recognition in the Aggie 100 as the Summit Award winner mean to you personally?

Edwards: It means great recognition for our staff and investors. We have all worked very hard, and the "Summit Award" describes it well. We are at the top of our game from where we started. Honored and proud ... as there are a lot of great Aggie companies.

Rupe: It is a great honor to be recognized for our hard work; but to be honored by the school and peers who have the same goals that we do is very special.

Have you always been interested in business and entrepreneurship?

Edwards: I have always been interested in pursuing opportunity and building something better. My parents did a great job in teaching me accountability and that I was fully responsible for my success or failure.

Rupe: I am not sure that I knew when I graduated that I would be a founding member in a new company, but I have always known that I wanted to be a major part of building something.

Since 1996 CIMA has grown into a billion dollar company that spans six states. What would you credit as being the impetus for your success?

Edwards: A great work ethic, taking calculated risk and never being comfortable with our successes.

Rupe: Never taking anything for granted and always trying to work harder than the competition.