

BIOGRAPHY

Tom Heimgartner

Tom Heimgartner is the President and owner of Best Transportation, a major intermodal trucking company located in Port Newark, NJ. Foreseeing great potential in intermodal trucking, Tom established Best Transportation with the intention of bringing the same professionalism and productivity associated with the domestic trucking industry to intermodal transportation.

Best Transportation has grown immensely since its origination in 1982. Tom started the company modestly in Paterson, NJ, as a one-truck operation with Tom himself behind the wheel. Under Tom's leadership and guidance, Best Transportation has evolved into one of the largest and well-respected intermodal trucking carriers in the northeast. Today, Best Transportation's corporate and terminal facility in Port Newark consists of more than five acres, including a state-of-the-art corporate office, yard, warehouse, and mechanic shop. Tom's once single truck operation has grown to over 100 vehicles, one of the most successful drayage carriers in the Port of NY and NJ and the northeast region and servicing three major ports in the northeast: The Ports of NY/NJ, Philadelphia, and Baltimore.

With over 50 years in the transportation industry Tom has made trucking a passion as well as a career. While a freshman at Rutgers University in Newark, NJ in 1966, Tom began his trucking career loading trucks at night and as a truck driver for APA and then Arrow Carriers. After receiving his degree, Tom began his upward climb in the transportation industry through hard work and determination. He was sequentially promoted to platform supervisor, dispatcher, terminal manager, and ultimately to regional manager. Tom continued his successful rise as General Manager for Systems Freight in Moonachie, NJ. Here, Tom oversaw operations, safety, regulatory compliance, personnel, labor relations, and sales. With all of this experience and his complete understanding and solid background on all aspects of the transportation industry, Tom then established Best Transportation.

Tom has been an advocate for improving the work environment, productivity, and safety of intermodal transportation. As an industry leader, Tom has met with and established relationships with many local, state, federal officials, and elected representatives in an ongoing effort to resolve the problems of unsafe, poorly maintained intermodal trailers and containers being driven on our highways. He remains actively engaged in improving highway safety of the Motor Truck Industry and promoting the growth and efficiency of The Port of New York and New Jersey.

An industry leader and an advocate for improving the work environment, productivity, sustainability, and safety of intermodal transportation, as well as a proponent for the growth and efficiency of the New Jersey Marine Terminals, as well as the State of New Jersey, Tom understands environmental responsibility and is committed to building a more sustainable freight chain supply and reduce the impact of freight transportation on climate.

As a stakeholder in the Port of NY & NJ, Tom served on the Port Authority of NY & NJ's Council on Port Performance and the Port Productivity Task Force working directly with terminal operators, cargo owners and shippers. Tom has also participated in many Port Environmental Initiatives, including the Clean Trucks Program to help develop a clean air strategy for the Port of NY & NJ, as well as the PANYNJ's Clean Trucks Focus Group to provide education and "get the word out" on the importance of clean air in our communities and makes substantial change.

Under Tom's guidance, Best Transportation established a dynamic comprehensive sustainability plan and made New Jersey history as the first trucker in the State, to successfully transport a container from the Elizabeth, NJ with zero emissions on highway electric truck to Monroe Township, NJ, and return. Tom purchased more ZEV's and made New Jersey history again when Best became the first company in New Jersey to received and use two Kalmar Ottawa T2e, zero emissions, fully electric terminals trucks. These trucks are only used in the State of New Jersey.

Tom personally serves on many associations, environmental task forces and focus groups, as well as attending many clean air events. His participation allows him to become better educated on clean air strategies, technology, and equipment and to evoke education and awareness of the importance of clean air and climate change to others in the trucking industry and our communities, resulting in change and improvements.

Tom is currently organizing and working with local and state officials to establish a "Driver Apprenticeship Program". His proposed plan would recruit unemployed and/or underemployed inner-city youth and provide them with the opportunity to become fully trained and licensed commercial truck drivers; thus, allowing them the opportunity to build a secure future with an established and honorable career.

Tom holds a degree from Rutgers University. He is a member of the Board of Directors of The Intermodal Motor Carrier's Conference of The American Trucking Association and the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Association of BiState Motor Carriers. Tom has served on the Advisory Board of the International Intermodal Transportation Center at NJIT and as Co-chairman of the Port Alliance Committee.

Some of Tom's Memberships & Committees and Efforts:

- Chairman, Executive Board, Bi-State Motor Carriers
- Board of Directors of The Intermodal Carrier's Conference, ATA
- Member of the Federal Maritime Commission's, Supply Chain Initiative Team
- FMC, Port of NY & NJ Committee Innovation Team
- Port Authority of NY/NJ Council on Port Performance
- Port Authority of NY/NJ Port Productivity Task Force
- Port Authority of NY/NJ Clean Trucks Focus Group
- Port Authority of NY/NJ Tennant Security Group
- Port of New York & New Jersey Earth Day Initiative to Clean Up the Port

Tom takes responsibility and is fully committed to building a more sustainable future for Best Transportation, its employees, partners, our supply chain, our communities, and the environment; working with Best Transportation's partners to share best practices and innovation to ensure the greatest environmental, economic, and social impact.

True to his roots and always a trucker, Tom keeps his Commercial Driver's License and his DOT mandatory medical certificate current, allowing him to jump in one of his trucks to deliver a "Hot" load to a customer if the need arises, always remaining "hands-on" in this industry that he's made his home.