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News & Views for Building Professionals

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THE ELECTRICAL ALLIANCE
National Electrical Contractors Association and Local 26 IBEW



Contractor Training Issues

Working Smarter, Better and Safer

Ongoing Learning Creates More Efficient Work Both On and Off Job Site

Continuing education plays an important part of every company's growth — and electrical contractors are no exception. The Washington, DC Chapter of the National Electrical Contractors Association (NECA), a part of the Electrical Alliance, offers a comprehensive schedule of courses for its member companies.

The Electrical Alliance is the cooperative effort between these electrical contractors and the skilled electricians they employ who belong to IBEW Local 26 in the Washington area. Its members feel very strongly about providing state-of-the-art training for both electrical apprentices and electrical contractors.

"Training doesn't stop when an apprentice graduates," says Thang Nguyen, assistant executive director of the Washington, DC Chapter of NECA. "We offer a wide array of programs to help electrical contractors keep their management employees up-to-date on the latest trends, improve management skills and focus on safety."

In fact, the extensive list of classes, seminars, and conferences includes LEED workshops, estimating courses, project supervision courses, project management seminars, safety seminars and much more. The training schedule is designed to help employees grow within

their companies as well as help companies provide even better service to building owners and general contractors both on and off the job site.

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—Thang Nguyen, assistant executive director of the Washington, DC Chapter of NECA

Highly-trained managers, supervisors and workers increase the likelihood that their clients' projects will be delivered on time and within budget. The companies that send their employees to these training sessions are able to start a project with a good estimate, have good project managers to direct the job, good supervisors to run the job and skilled workers on the job site.

The excellent content and high caliber instructors offered drive the majority of NECA members to enroll their employees in at least one course each year. Brian Snyder, a new assistant project manager at VarcoMac Electrical Construction Co. recently attended the basic estimating class and came away feeling more prepared to excel at his job.

CONTINUED ON BACK

Story inside

Work Smarter...



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CONTINUED FROM FRONT

“[The instructor] had a great answer to every question asked, and he made me feel at home in his class,” Snyder says.

Snyder notes that the pace of the course was adjusted to meet the needs of the students and the materials provided were practical and easy to understand.

“One of the nicest parts of the course was being able to sit among other students who were willing to offer their help and advice based on their experience,” he adds.

Another management training participant, Brian Slade, of Truland Systems, found that he has been able to implement a substantial portion of the information he learned at the Foremanship Training Program into his daily work.

The courses provide specialized training for the electrical industry that may not be offered anywhere else and unlike some associations NECA treats education as a service—not a profit maker. Members pay the actual cost of the program or in some cases less.

In addition, NECA stays on top of the current industry trends, offering Green Building seminars since 2004 and partners with other groups to provide the best training possible for its member companies.

“We are a resource. By continually increasing the knowledge of our members, we’re improving the entire electrical industry in the DC area,” explains Andrew Porter, executive director of the Washington, DC Chapter of NECA. “We’re raising the bar on what owners and general contractors expect from electrical contractors.”



2008 Education & Training

NECA members can choose from the following courses and many more.

- LEED Technical Workshops
- Green Advantage Training & Certification
- Basic Estimating For Electrical Construction
- Electrical Project Supervision
- Project Management Training Program
- Pre-Construction Planning Process
- Short Interval Planning
- Advanced Construction Law
- Advanced Estimating For Electrical Construction
- Business Management Courses
- Project Management Courses
- Technical Management Courses
- Executive Management Institute
- Future Leaders Conference
- Electrical Safety In The Work Place
- OSHA 30 Hour Safety Training