

CORRESPONDENCE

DETAILER TRAINING PROGRAM OVERLOOKED

Speaking from the perspective of a detailing manager, I say the article "Does anyone want to be a Detailer?" was a very noteworthy article. In agreement with your article, the summation of a recent (2000) NISD survey cites the lack of qualified detailers as the 2nd most significant problem that plagues the steel detailing industry.

I respectfully submit the following point of clarification regarding the "Resources for Steel Detailing Training." In addition to being a partner institution of Steel Plus Network, Southwest Community College (Creston, IA) directly offers the best 1-year and 2-year structural steel detailing program in the United States. The program at SWCC is designed specifically for the development of students for structural steel detailing. Students graduate with a very good practical working knowledge of steel detailing.

The Instructor, Al Binning, brings 20 plus years of practical detailing experience to the program, and currently has 34 students enrolled in the program. The course description can be obtained from

www.swcc.cc.ia.us
641.782.7081

Dave Baker
Drake-Williams Steel, Inc.

DETAILER SHORTAGE?

There is absolutely no shortage of detailers, engineers or CAD personnel and I can prove it beyond a shadow of doubt. These people don't get several years of pay as a signing bonus, nor do they get several years of pay as a severance package and they don't make at least 6 figures per year. Until their pay looks like that there is no shortage. There is a shortage of ball players, news readers, entertainers, and head honcho types.

My design fees are now buried into the gravel, dirt moving or other large, hard-to-quantify-and-check line items. Can't be a shortage until the price goes through the roof—and it ain't going up, it's going down. Watch for the overseas turn-the-crank boys hooked up to the internet. I am hearing prices of \$12 per hour total cost. Shortage of people? You have to be kidding.

By the way I have 30-plus years designing and I run my own design company.

Michael Zurich, P.E.

Modern Steel Construction welcomes reader feedback. Contact either Scott Melnick (melnick@modernsteel.com) or Keith Grubb (grubb@modernsteel.com) with your comments or concerns.