SUSTAINABILITY NEWS

Wanted: Green Building Experts and Educators

The U.S. Green Building Council has issued an ongoing call for USGBC members interested in joining the team that provides peer review of the courses and content that make up the Education Provider Program. Green building subject matter experts and educators are sought for this team.

Given the exponential growth in the green building market, there is a proportionate demand for top-quality education opportunities to support that growth. USGBC facilitates access to this education through Greenbuild365 (www.greenbuild365.org), a new online education portal, which includes a catalog of courses offered by USGBC and education providers. In addition to courses, the program has launched a review process for conferences and one-time events, along with a new fee structure.

Professionals seeking to go beyond LEED and enrich their knowledge of green building theories, techniques, and business trends want to know that the content is accurate, timely, and worth their time—and reviewers provide this important oversight.

Not only do reviewers add value to the program, they also receive benefits that enhance their own professional expertise. They are trained in the basics of adult education, the review process, and criteria, and this training can be used to enhance their own courses. In addition, reviewers are eligible for a free review of one of their own courses annually after completing 12 course reviews. A current list of reviewers is listed on the program’s web page.

For more information about the Education Provider Program, visit www.usgbc.org/cpp. And to learn about specific reviewer qualifications, visit www.usgbc.org/DisplayPage.aspx?CMSPageID=1659.

People and Firms

The American Society of Civil Engineers recently named 11 exemplary civil engineers as distinguished members. The active roster of distinguished members is comprised of only 193 of ASCE’s more than 140,000 members worldwide. The new members are:

- George W. Black Jr., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, senior civil engineer and national resource specialist with the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).
- Izzat M. Idriss, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, NAE, professor emeritus at the University of California, Davis.
- Raymond E. Levitt, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, professor of civil and environmental engineering at Stanford University.
- James D. Murff, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, industry consultant and visiting professor at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas.
- Craig N. Musselman, P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, president of Portsmouth, N.H.-based CMA Engineers.
- Cranston R. “Chan” Rogers, P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, a U.S. Army Engineer Reserve colonel.
- Jerry R. Rogers, Ph.D., P.E., D.WRE, Dist.M.ASCE, a professor at the University of Houston.
- C. Michael Walton, Ph.D., P.E., Dist.M.ASCE, NAE, professor of civil engineering at the University of Texas at Austin.

Thornton Tomasetti has opened its third West Coast office, in San Francisco. The new location is headed by principal John Abruzzo.

In other Thornton Tomasetti news, the National Building Museum presented the 2008 Henry C. Turner Prize for Innovation in Construction Technology to Charles H. Thornton, Ph.D., P.E., the firm’s co-founder, for his work in founding the ACE Mentor Program, which introduces high school students to careers in the building arts and sciences.
**SDI’s New Mill Gets Rolling**

Structural steel producer Steel Dynamics, Inc. (SDI), based in Ft. Wayne, Ind., has added a new wide-flange beam mill to its Columbia City, Ind., location. The new mill has been running since late August, producing $10\times5\frac{1}{4}$ beams on a five-day, around-the-clock schedule.

“Many service centers expressed a need for a wider product capability or range of products from us, and thus we made the decision to add a second rolling mill,” said Michael Busse, sales and marketing manager for SDI’s Columbia City Structural and Rail Division. The mill’s first shipment was approximately 20 tons of wide-flange, to Chicago-area service center Sugar Steel.

The mill is still in the commissioning stage, and its range of capability will be 3- to 14-in. wide-flange. “We’re fine-tuning each size,” Busse said. He also noted that the capacity of the new mill will depend on SDI’s product mix, and the market demand will determine what and how much the mill will produce.

**FMA Announces New Certification Program**

The Fabricators and Manufacturers Association, International (FMA) has announced a new certification program for precision sheet metal operators for testing and validating their skills in sheet metal forming and fabricating. While welders in the industry have had certification programs available to them for proving their knowledge and expertise, the new Precision Sheet Metal Operator (PSMO) Level I Certification is the first to provide a comprehensive exam in the areas of shearing, sawing, press brake, turret punch press, laser cutting, and mechanical finishing.

The exam fee is $245 for FMA members and $345 for nonmembers. As a bonus, those who pass the exam will receive a one-year Basic (individual) membership in FMA. A special student rate of $95 is available, which includes a free one-year FMA Student membership. The certification is valid for three years. For more information, visit www.fmanet.org.

**New Crane Rules Coming**

The Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) plans to publish proposed rules for Cranes and Derricks in Construction; publication was anticipated in October 2008 as of press time, and will be followed by a 60-day public comment period.

These first new regulations since 1971 will require crane operators to pass written and practical tests in all 50 states and will also require operators to undergo more training. Several deadly U.S. crane accidents during the past year have underscored the need for changes.

The new standards also seek to toughen requirements on inspecting ground conditions, crane assembly and disassembly, operating cranes near power lines, using safety devices, and crane inspection. Crane operators would have four options for certification under the new requirements: through an accredited third-party testing organization, an audited employer testing program, a state or local licensing authority, or a U.S. military-issued qualification. Currently, just 15 states and six cities require the tests.

**Correction**

The steel detailer for the Shared Parking Facility in Las Vegas (“Ample Parking,” p. 27, 8/2008) was accidentally omitted from the article. Action Steel Detailing, Inc., Mesa, Ariz., an AISC Member, was the detailer for the project.