

< Education Insider >

A quarterly newsletter of the NAWIC Education Foundation • Vol. 1, Issue 3, Spring 2005

Executive Director's Message

NEF Supporters: I have to credit Oprah Winfrey for making this statement, "When I look into the future, it is so bright that it burns my eyes." I feel that way about NEF! There are so many exciting things going on around the country involving NEF. Let me give you an update.

◆ Midyear Board of Directors Meeting

Our Midyear Board of Directors Meeting took place March 6 in Hurst, Texas. We had a productive and successful session. We elected our officers for 2005-2006. They are: President Susan W. Carson, CIT; President-Elect Linda A. Little; Vice President Sherry Yarbrough; Secretary Denise Redmond Crossland, CCA, and Treasurer Cynthia Johnsen, CIT. I have worked with each one of these women, and I can tell you that we have an exceptional level of service, skills, new ideas, enthusiasm and leadership among them.

At Midyear, we also received a report from NEF Trustee Carol Kueker, CCA, CIT, CDS, who is working closely with the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) to get our CCA program accredited. Carol has been assisted by Dr. Roger W. Liska, chairman and professor of Construction Science and Management at Clemson University. Liska is a long-time supporter of NAWIC and an NEF Trustee. Carol had been hop-

NEF Mission

The NAWIC Education Foundation will promote the construction industry through education by:

- Developing understanding and enthusiasm in young people (K-12), thereby encouraging them to enter the construction workforce.
- Providing continuing education programs for the construction industry.

ing to make more progress than she has, but that saying "Slow and steady wins the race" comes to mind. The time will come when NEF will receive accreditation for our exceptional CCA program. Carol will attend the ACCE Meeting in July when we should find out whether the program will be accepted for accreditation. I encourage you to read the "Trustee Spotlight" on page 2 more information on accreditation.

Marilyn J. Camin, CIT, unveiled a great fund-raiser idea for this year. Hoping to get more involvement from our membership base, we will be raising funds through a raffle at Annual Forums. Traditionally, we've held some type of fund-raising event with a particular theme at convention. This year, we will be selling raffle tickets for \$25/ticket. The prizes? The grand prize will be a cruise valued at \$3,500. Second- and third-place prizes are a \$2,000 gift certificate to Good Guys and a \$1,000 gift certificate to Home Depot! Be sure to buy a ticket or two when you're attending your Annual

Forum to be eligible for these great prizes! In addition to the raffle, we will be conducting a 50/50 drawing at NAWIC's 50th Annual Meeting and Convention this fall in Grapevine, Texas. If you haven't already, please mark your calendar for Sept. 7-10 – our golden anniversary will be an event that you will not want to miss!

Speaking of our Grapevine convention ... if you are planning to attend our convention this fall, then we've made it easier than ever for you to participate in one of our educational programs – Construction Document Specialist (CDS). We will be holding a review, study session and exam, administered by NEF Trustee Dr. Roger W. Liska. Our CDS program is our newest NEF program and is slowly increasing in popularity. If you want to receive more knowledge about interpreting information conveyed from the architect or engineer to the contractor by way of a legal document, then enroll in the CDS program.

◆ Marketing and Business Plans

In an effort to lay a professional groundwork for the NAWIC Education Foundation, our task forces have been diligently at work developing our business and marketing plans. These plans are our blueprint (to borrow a construction term). They will lead and guide us as we steer the course for construction education in the 21st century. Our business plan is still being developed and will be unfolded at a later time. Please stay tuned.

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< Trustee Spotlight >

CAROL KUEKER, CCA, CIT, CDS

Carol Kueker, CCA, CIT, CDS, believes in education. In fact, education was the “niche” that attracted her most to the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). Kueker joined NAWIC in 1983 and in her 22 years of involvement, she has had quite a few accomplishments:

- Earned her CCA, CIT and CDS certifications.
- Helped grow the NAWIC Education Committee into the NAWIC Education Foundation.
- Served as an Adult Program Coordinator of NEF since 1988, which has given her the honor of awarding many CCA certificates and all of the CIT and CDS certificates to graduates.

In addition to these accomplishments, Kueker hopes to add another, which would cap off her mountain of involvement and service: To get NEF’s CCA program accredited through the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE).

Besides being a leading global advocate of quality construction education programs, ACCE’s mission is to accredit quality construction education programs.

Accreditation of educational programs can be a long and arduous process, but Kueker has stuck through it, with the help of fellow NEF trustee Dr. Roger Liska of Clemson University. Despite the challenges and road bumps that are typical of the accreditation process, she is pushing

forward NEF’s goal of accrediting its programs.

“Once approval of our CCA program is achieved, I will try to get the other two programs approved,” Kueker says, referring to the CIT and CDS programs. “If we get our programs approved, NEF’s programs would be the only home study programs to achieve this recognition.”

Kueker is confident about her goal. She said the current chair of the committee that will review the CCA program is NAWIC member Christine Hess. Hess told her that she would get any additional questions that she has about the CCA program to Kueker by June 1 so that she can prepare for the July ACCE Meeting. It is then that ACCE’s Board will vote to accept or deny the CCA program for accreditation.

Perhaps the biggest challenge that

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*— Carol Kueker,
CCA, CIT, CDS*



Kueker faces as an NEF trustee is to keep NEF’s programs current. With the industry changing daily, and technology growing rapidly, keeping course content current and applicable for its students is tantamount. NEF relies on its faithful army of volunteers who are experts in particular fields to lend their knowledge in updating the programs. Kueker is also interested in putting together an advisory board that is devoted to the singular goal of keeping its programs updated. Kueker urges any members who may have an interest in serving on such an advisory board to contact her (ckueker@mcleodusa.net).

In looking ahead to the Foundation’s future, Kueker’s main goal is growth. She encourages every participant in the construction industry to get involved in NEF to foster that growth.

“Contributions of time or money to NEF get you a great return on your investment,” Kueker says.

**NEXT TRUSTEE
SPOTLIGHT:
Dr. Roger W. Liska,
EDD, FAIC,
FCIOB, CPC,
Clemson University**

NEF Signs Partnering Agreement with RedVector.com

The NAWIC Education Foundation (NEF), the leading education organization for women involved in the construction industry, has formed a partnership with RedVector.com, a provider of online continuing education for design and construction professionals.

Through the partnership, members of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC), and other construction organizations served by NEF, will have access to hundreds of courses on virtually every construction-related profession. Categories of courses offered will include those focused on technical, management, and professional/personal development.

“The NAWIC Education Foundation is committed to providing and promoting educational opportunities and programs to benefit the construction industry,” said NEF Executive Director Darline Johnson. “Our objective is to provide the best available educational opportunities for the construction professional’s advantage. The introduction of the new technologies has created more cost-effective construction and through our partnering agreement with RedVector more industry-related programs will be readily available through NEF to upgrade the skills and knowledge of those employed in the industry. NEF is pleased to begin this new partnership.”

Lisa Maier, senior vice president of marketing for RedVector.com added, “Women are a vital and growing force in the construction industry. By partnering with NEF we can help almost a million women who work in the construction

industry meet their continuing education needs.”

NEF, founded in 1972, serves the construction industry by developing construction-related education programs.

RedVector (www.RedVector.com) provides online continuing education services to more than 50,000 licensed professionals, including architects, engineers, contractors, landscape architects, land surveyors and others involved in design and construction.

Visit NEF Online!
www.nawiceducation.org

Look what you will find online at our Web site:

- ◆ Description of all of NEF’s educational programs
- ◆ Order our course materials online through a fast and secure system
- ◆ Overview of all of our K-12 programs, including Block-Kids, Building Design and CAD Design
- ◆ Enroll in online courses through our various partners
- ◆ Learn how to earn CEUs through NEF’s coursework
- ◆ And much more!

Visit www.nawiceducation.org today!

NEF Calendar

Mark your calendar for these upcoming events, including testing dates.

May 30, 2005

National CAD/Design/Drafting winners announced

June 15, 2005

Deadline to register for Aug. 6, 2005 NEF exams

August 6, 2005

NEF Certification Exams

September 7-10, 2005

NAWIC Annual Meeting & Convention – 50th Anniversary Spectacular!

September 15, 2005

Deadline to register for November 5, 2005, NEF exams

Have an event that you would like posted on NEF’s Calendar? Send event information, including name, date and contact information to nef@airmail.net.

< NEF Office >

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The purpose of our marketing plan is to increase the participation levels of our educational programs by current NAWIC members as well as nonmembers. The task force for this plan has outlined our target audiences as well as our goals, objectives and strategies to accomplish everything.

◆ Certified Construction Associate (CCA) Program

We have signed a contract with Clemson University for it to update our CCA programs. The CCA programs are central to NEF's curriculum. It is comprised of six separate sections that need to be constantly revised and updated to ensure its practical and relative application in the construction workplace. The revisions will begin this month and take about a year to complete.

Speaking of our CCA program, I would also like to congratulate the following graduates of our CCA program. They are: Mary Buczek, CCA, Jean McAdam, CCA, Judi McDowell, CCA, and Catherine Andrew, CCA. Congratulations to these ladies for their focus, hard work and determination to build on their construction education!

◆ Partnering Agreements

We have recently signed partnering agreements with The Construction Institute, the International Builders Exchange Network and RedVector.com. Working with these organizations, we have access to additional resources and opportunities to promote NEF's continuing education programs.

For example, through The Construction Institute, we will be working with its education affiliate, The Career Counseling Center of the University of Hartford, to

provide a testing site for NEF's certificate self-study courses.

Through the International Builders Exchange Network, we will be promoting NEF courses through the organization's workshop promotional materials. In addition, NEF's courses will be available to its students for self-study.

Through our partnership with RedVector, we will be able to offer hundreds of additional construction online courses to our membership relating to the design and construction fields (for more details on the RedVector.com partnership, please see page 3). If you would like a copy of any of these agreements, please e-mail me at nef@airmail.net.

Finally, we are in the process of developing a partnering agreement with Associated Builders and Contractors of San Diego to provide online educational courses. Please look for more details on that agreement in our next newsletter.

As you can see, we've had a busy and exciting start to 2005. We hope you're excited as the Board is about all of the changes and offerings going on. Take advantage of these educational opportunities before you! It is the only way we can stay on top of this great industry.

Until next time ...

— *Darline H. Johnson, CGS**

NEF Executive Director

* Certified Grant Specialist

NEF's Educational Programs

Certified Construction AssociateCCA

Certified Industry TechnicianCIT

Certified Document SpecialistCDS

2004-2005 NEF Officers

President

Pat Callicotte, CCA
patc@radco.net

Vice President

Susan W. Carson, CIT
scarson@rsjconst.com

Secretary

Sherry J. Yarbrough
Sherry@abcsd.org

Treasurer

Linda Little
sdwic@cox.net

Executive Comm. Member

Carol Kueker, CCA, CIT, CDS
ckueker@mcleodusa.net

Past President

Frances Jackson, CIT
FranJackson@aol.com

NAWIC Education Foundation

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Executive Director

Darline H. Johnson, CGS

P.O. Box 37069

Raleigh, N.C. 27627

Telephone (919) 859-5400

Toll free (866) 277-2883

Fax (919) 859-5600

E-mail: nef@airmail.net