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A quarterly newsletter of the NAWIC Education Foundation • Vol. 1, Issue 2, Winter 2004

Executive Director's Message

NEF Supporters:

It has been a busy fall season for us. After coming back from NAWIC's 49th Annual Meeting and Convention in New York, N.Y., we have hit the ground running on all of NEF's educational activities.

First, I just wanted to share some news with you from our annual convention.

◆ Our past president, Frances Jackson, CIT, was awarded the **Darline H. Johnson Volunteer Achievement Award**. Frances has tirelessly championed NEF's programs faithfully during our existence and is a top-notch fundraiser. She can sure "rally" the troops to give to a great cause like NEF. Thanks to Frances' hard work and "go-getter" mentality, she has raised tens of thousands of dollars for NEF. Congratulations, Frances!

◆ This year was the first time that the Tradeswomen Committee developed the "Tradeswoman of the Year" and "Tradeswoman Advocate of the Year" awards! I was honored to receive the first "Tradeswoman Advocate of the Year" award. I thank the Tradeswomen Committee, and I am deeply honored to receive this recognition. Tradeswomen play an important and overlooked role in our industry. I am glad to see that NAWIC has recognized their importance through the formation of these recognition programs.

◆ NAWIC members were generous

NEF Core Purpose:

To educate the construction industry and foster the workforce of tomorrow.

NEF Goals:

- Provide quality education programs for the construction industry.
- Promote the benefits of a career in the construction industry.

once again to us this year, helping us to raise more than \$10,000 at convention! We thank all of our supporters for your gifts – large and small!

◆ Currently the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE) has the Certified Construction Associate program under consideration for their seal of approval. Carol Kueker, CCA, CIT, CDS, has worked hard toward this goal.

Clemson University's Department of Construction Science and Management (CSM) – through the Construction Guild – is currently reviewing the six NEF instructional units and corresponding national certification examinations that make up the Certified Construction Associate (CCA) program and will present recommendations for specific changes. Carol will represent NEF and NAWIC at the ACCE Midyear Meeting, February 23-26, 2005, in San Antonio. We appreciate the tenacity Carol has shown in staying with this project.

◆ With the dedication of Tammy Sweeris, CIT, we were able to secure a

partnership with Summit Training. We now offer online courses directly from our Web site! Please go to our Web site (www.nawiceducation.org) and click on "Online Courses" to view the variety of courses available through Summit Training.

◆ With the year coming to an end, I would like to ask that you consider making a donation to benefit our Foundation. NEF is a 501 (c) (3) not-for-profit entity. All donations are tax deductible. This year, we have introduced a new level to our Ladder Club – \$10,000.

As construction education becomes more crucial than ever in securing a qualified workforce, your donation would help benefit our mission and the future of our industry.

◆ The focus of this year is **Building Tomorrow, Today**. NEF President Pat Callicotte, CCA, believes that by working together, we can achieve NEF's goals, which are to provide quality education programs for the construction industry and to promote the benefits of a career in the construction industry.

Pat and I will be overseeing the work of a taskforce that has been assigned to develop a certification committee. This committee will review our existing adult education programs and make recommendations for changes to keep them current. This will be an ongoing process. I will work with committee in developing guidelines for renewal of certifications to ensure that certifications are kept current with new technology in the industry.

I have been working with other

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TRUSTEE SPOTLIGHT: SHERRY J. YARBROUGH

SHERRY J. YARBROUGH is the executive director of the San Diego Associated Builders & Contractors Apprenticeship Training Trust. She has served as an NEF trustee for several terms. She became an active supporter of NEF during the early '90s when she was director of Region 11. She is now a member of Region 12 and shares her views on the purpose and value of NEF in this question-and-answer format.

Q: What are the different NEF programs that you have been involved in?

A: I may have a slightly different appreciation of the benefits that NEF provides. What attracted me personally to the Foundation are the K-12 industry enhancement programs. We have a tremendous need for bright and motivated employees in the construction industry. While there are some exceptions, the "best and the brightest" students are not being steered in our direction.

Some years ago, NEF took a proactive approach to solving this problem and put together a series of programs to reach students of all ages – starting with elementary students. The Block-Kids Contest has been a tremendous success, winning the prestigious NOVA Award. Each year thousands of children across the country participate in building a project out of interlocking blocks. What better way to stimulate the creative imagination of a child and plant an early seed about construction!

The Building Design Program introduces the team-building concept to mid-

dle school children and uses math and science as well. But my favorite would probably be the CAD/Design/Drafting Competition for senior high students. Having chaired the first national Drafting Competition Committee, I've been very happy to see this program grow under the direction of the NEF. These students have already demonstrated an interest in construction, and competitions of this type can provide support and encouragement.

NEF should be proud of the accomplishments made through the K-12 programs. I work with a lot of construction trade associations, but NEF was there first with a comprehensive program for all ages. Plus, NEF continues to expand these programs through our volunteer network.

Q: What is education's role in the construction world, and what are some challenges that NEF faces?

A: The term "life-long learning" applies as much to construction as to other industries. Today's construction professional – from field level to office – needs to be willing to invest in continuing education. NEF provides many educational courses and study options from new hires to more seasoned construction employees. Education can be the stepping stone to increased responsibility, advancement and – let's not forget – money.

The Crisp Publications offered through NEF provide concise, easy-to-read information on a variety of topics that are easily adaptable to your working world and



life. What better way can NEF support NAWIC'S core purpose of enhancing success of women in the industry than by providing opportunities for education?

With the changes in technology, NEF must strive to keep our materials current, to seek further certifications, and to evaluate new delivery methods such as on-line training.

Q: You have obviously been very involved in NEF's programs and support its mission. Why does NEF mean so much to you?

A: I've spent most of my working life promoting construction careers, and in particular, apprenticeship opportunities. I see first-hand, every single day, the payoff and benefits of education and training in our industry. I know the opportunities that construction can provide to the right young man or woman if you can just get their attention. NEF provides the perfect vehicle for both. And let's not forget the fun and satisfaction of working as a volunteer – whether you're making a fool of yourself to raise money for the Foundation or judging a Block-Kids Contest! NEF study groups and local competitions provide a rewarding opportunity for fellowship with other NAWIC members. **NEF**

‘Study Buddies’ Find Success With NEF Programs

Diane Zink, CIT, CCA, and Karolyn “Kate” Muniz, CIT, CCA, are fellow chapter members and former study buddies. In fact, if it wasn’t for Muniz approaching Zink with the idea of studying for NEF’s Certified Construction Associate (CCA) course together, Zink admits that she probably wouldn’t have taken the course.

Zink and Muniz are members of the Colorado Springs, Colo., Chapter of NAWIC, and this year, they successfully completed the six-part CCA program. They accomplished it through dedication, perseverance and encouragement from each other.

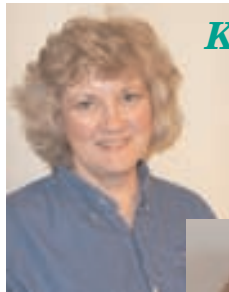
“It [taking the CCA course] was something I had thought about doing, as an opportunity to learn more about the construction industry, and as a challenge to myself,” says Zink, who is a residential designer. “Knowing I wasn’t going about it alone was the motivation I needed to get started.”

For Muniz, she was glad that someone agreed to be her study partner for the demanding CCA program.

“I am big on education and was at a point where I needed to learn something,” says Muniz, an office manager for a remodeling company. After having completed the CIT program, she looked to the CCA program to broaden her knowledge of the industry.

Here are some tips that Muniz and Zink have learned from their personal educational experiences that they share with other members:

◆ If you’re going to enroll in an NEF program, get a study buddy. A study partner can be crucial to the success and com-



Kate Muniz



Diane Zink

pletion of the program. Having a study buddy can help motivate the other to complete coursework and study for tests.

If studying with a partner or several members in your chapter, consider assigning an individual to a particular section or chapter. That individual is responsible for developing study questions that you can later review together. Each person is still responsible for reading the entire book. However, study partners enable you to get help in studying other sections more thoroughly than if you had done them by yourself.

◆ Don’t quit after you’ve completed a course – keep going! With the momentum and excitement of a completed course behind you, it’s easier to forge ahead with other programs. And with NEF’s new online course offerings through Summit Training Source Inc., members and non-members have a full range of courses to choose from on a pay-per-view basis.

Zink and Muniz have found the course material invaluable to them. For instance,

in Muniz’s work as an office manager, she was able to apply knowledge from her CCA course on “attractive nuisances.”

“Our staff was in a meeting one day discussing leaving a scaffold up over a weekend when I pulled out the attractive nuisance clause out of the my head, which helped us avert a liability to our company,” says Muniz.

For Zink, she benefited from studying the different aspects of the construction industry from the CCA course.

After all the hard work Zink put into her NEF courses, she is pleased that her course material counts toward continuing education units through her membership in the American Institute of Building Design.

Both Muniz and Zink encourage other women in construction to jump in and take an NEF course.

“Aside from the educational benefits, there are added benefits of camaraderie with other members and the personal satisfaction of having accomplished this huge goal,” says Zink.

Adds Muniz, “It is so easy for anyone, especially women, to get comfortable with the knowledge we already have ... We need to continually learn. Working for my CCA was hard but worth it!”

If you have any questions or need encouragement from these ladies on getting started with an NEF course, contact Kate Muniz at kate@the-remodeler.com or Diane Zink at diane@willowtreechd.com. **NEF**

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educational groups to partner with them on educational opportunities that would make other avenues of education available to you, the member.

Through our adult education and K-12 programs, NEF is reaching many people of all ages and instilling in them that a career in the construction industry is honorable and rewarding.

I invite you to peruse the contents of the second NEF newsletter of the year. Read up on all of the events going on at NEF. We have a busy and exciting 2005 to look forward to! If you haven't already, I would like to invite you to get involved in some type of NEF program. Whether you volunteer for Block-Kids, serve as a judge for one of our contests or enroll in your first NEF course, get involved and realize the many benefits that NEF has to offer you! If you have any questions, or would like to find out more about any of our educational programs, please visit our Web site or contact me. *Happy Holidays!*

NEF

Darline H. Johnson, CGS*

NEF Executive Director

* Certified Grant Specialist

Co-Chairman of CAD/Design/Drafting Committee Needed

NEF is looking for a CAD/Design/Drafting Co-Chairman. This person would be responsible for developing the 2005-2006 competition problem. The individual would move up to the position of chairman for the 2005-2006. If interested in this opportunity, please contact NEF President Pat Callicotte, CCA at patc@radco.net.

NEF Trustees Sought

The NEF Nominating Committee is seeking interested people to serve as a trustee of the NAWIC Education Foundation for the term beginning October 2005. Trustees may be NAWIC members or non-members who have an interest in promoting the goals of the Foundation.

Service as a trustee requires a commitment of time and money and the desire to support and advance the programs of the NAWIC Education Foundation. Specific trustee responsibilities are outlined online at NEF's Web site. Click on "Forms" to access the "Trustee Responsibilities."

Trustee terms are for two years and require attendance at two meetings per year. Trustee meetings are held during the NAWIC Annual Meeting and the NAWIC Midyear Board of Directors Meeting. **NEF**

NEF's Educational Programs

Certified Construction AssociateCCA

Construction Industry TechnicianCIT

Construction Document Specialists . . .CDS

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