New Law Mandates CEUs for NJ Engineers

As part of a farewell bid to the State, former Governor Jon Corzine signed 55 bills into law, including Bill A-3835/S-2853. Speculators say that the transition to the new administration may have motivated legislators to treat unaddressed matters affecting the state. The new legislation mandates standards for continuing professional competency in professional engineering. According to the bill, twenty four units (hours) will be required during each biennial (2 year) license period. The law will go into effect within two years.

Compliance with the new law extends beyond engineers. Professional and continuing education providers throughout the state must also gain approval to provide the mandated continuing education units. RATE is already approved to provide CEUs through the State of New York, who, because they have some of the most stringent requirements in the country, are accepted in many other states. RATE currently has several approved courses in civil engineering. “We will certainly look at expanding our offerings in continuing education for engineers” says Stephen Carter, Director of RATE. “For example, two of the 24 required units, according to the new legislation, must be in professional practice ethics. We already have instructors and curriculum for these courses and can be offered across all engineering disciplines.”

The New Jersey law is not as strict as the New York law, and recognizes CEUs for professional meetings, technical presentations, teaching appointments, and correspondence courses. The New Jersey Board of Professional Engineers will define details including the subject matter and content of courses of study, what’s allowed, and program approval process.

ISEE Program Kicks Off to Great Start

The Rutgers International Student Engineering Experiences (ISEE) program is a new initiative granting students abroad the opportunity to experience engineering at Rutgers University. Staying true to Rutgers mantra - Jersey roots, global reach - ISEE is strengthening the University’s foreign relations and enriching the international community. This year’s January program kicked off with an exciting start to the new year welcoming 26 students from Kyung Hee University in South Korea.

The ISEE program enriches the learning experience by combining classroom instruction with interactive, hands-on experience. Following the theme of “Engineering for a Sustainable Future”, students explored aspects of bridge design and modeling.

See ISEE Program on page 2.
ISEE Program

This collaborative effort incorporates the internationally recognized professional education expertise of CMD.

ISEE students at Hackensack Bridge.

RATE Partners with CMD

RATE partners with the Center for Management Development (CMD) for a Mini-MBA in Leading Strategic Innovation. This collaborative effort, which incorporates the internationally recognized professional education expertise of CMD with the technical expertise of RATE, is set to provide an excellent program in strategic innovation. The Leading Strategic Innovation Mini-MBA program empowers technical staff such as scientists and engineers to become innovation catalysts within their organizations. Students will learn how to generate new ideas for change, how to communicate these ideas to influence others, and how to leverage and employ technologies in new and existing markets. For more information on CMD, visit: www.cmd.rutgers.edu.

RATE Launches New Website

Rutgers Advanced Technology Extension has launched a new high-tech website. The new web platform boasts a bold, new design and an easy-to-navigate, user-friendly environment. The new site contains easier menus and vibrant displays which offer courses in a variety of ways. "We wanted to make the RATE website as user-friendly as possible, implementing effective design techniques to create a web presence that is appealing, professional, and easy to use," claims the RATE Web Design Team. Efforts have also been taken to streamline the course registration process so that in just a few clicks, students are on their way to taking cutting-edge courses.

Visit us at: http://www.rate.rutgers.edu
Spotlight on User Experience Design

User Experience Design (UXD) is a Mini-Masters program offered by RATE that teaches design software interfaces for users seeking to efficiently and effortlessly complete their tasks. The program offers an immersive experience that shows how and where the user experience design fits in the software process. It explains the underlying psychology and sociology that guides user design, and demonstrates common techniques for making an interface usable.

The UXD program is ideal for web designers, software engineers, computer programmers, IT professionals, and business analysts who design and test software. Course attendees leave the course feeling positive about what they’ve learned. In fact, a recently completed UXD course left one excited student exclaiming, “I didn’t know there was so much I didn’t know about user interfaces. This was an amazing course. Thank you.”

The Mini-Masters program is no stranger to innovation. Instructors recently released revamped course notes and materials, keeping up to date with the latest advancements in user design experiences. RATE is currently in discussions of taking the program to the national level, which would benefit IT professionals seeking to reduce the number of software projects (63% percent) that overrun their budgetary estimates, typically due to unforeseen usability problems. Check out our upcoming UXD course at rate.rutgers.edu March 8th to 13th.

New Career Anyone?

RATE has developed a new, cutting-edge program that provides a “ready-made career” for displaced workers. RATE has combined training programs in green energy audits, energy efficiency, and entrepreneurship to provide a solid foundation for a career in green building and sustainability. The combined program will equip students with skills in new product development, auditing building energy usage, green marketing, and more. A state government initiative will cover tuition reimbursement up to $4,000.00 for eligible unemployed workers. Currently, the certification programs and courses offered through RATE recently graduated the first group of 14 students.

Displaced workers are flocking to County One-Stop Career Centers in pursuit of new careers and career training. Motivated by unfavorable economic conditions and higher competition among job applicants, career training provides an outlet for potential employees to gain that ever-important competitive advantage. Career training in green building, solar, wind and renewable energy, and principles of modern entrepreneurship are empowering workers with the skills needed to create an economy of sustainability.

More Incentives on Horizon

As part of Washington’s initiative to invigorate the economy, President Obama is proposing several stimulus programs. “Green jobs” are set to be a top priority, with government efforts focused on stimulating growth at the entrepreneurial level. As a compliment to training and other educational incentives, the $9.6B Home Star Initiative (nicknamed “Cash for Caulkers”) was proposed to provide financial incentives and rebates to homeowners that complete energy audits and retrofit homes to save energy. This initiative will create tremendous opportunity for home improvement contractors, handymen, plumbing and heating specialists, insulation contractors, remodelers, etc.

One aspect of the Home Star program requires an energy audit by a certified BPI auditor. In partnership with Everblue Institute, RATE provides energy auditor training through the BPI Certification for Energy Auditors program. This exciting program sets home improvement professionals on a path to new, independent careers in green technologies. The next BPI course will be held from March 8th thru March 12th in Piscataway.
Recent Activities

RATE (Rutgers Advanced Technology Extension) has partnered with Everblue Training Institute to offer a new, cutting-edge program in LEED, green energy, and sustainability. LEED, Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, is a designation developed by the US Green Building Council to establish standards for sustainable construction. The joint effort between RATE and Everblue, an accredited USGBC provider and the nation’s premier LEED training firm, has spawned a complete educational program that is driving “greenovation” ahead in New Jersey. Courses range from one hour introductory seminars to intensive weeklong bootcamps, are currently being offered at various locations throughout the state.

Courses in LEED certification exam preparation, green building, and renewable energy using solar and wind are empowering professionals with the knowledge and tools to create an economy powered by sustainable energy. Introductory courses in LEED and sustainability are also being introduced. These pocket-friendly one to two hour short courses provide an outlet for the curious professional to explore green building.

Our popular Linux administration course prepares students to pass the national Linux Professionals Institute (LPI) exam. In this course, the Drupal web-management software will also be introduced as an intuitive, dynamic web platform with tremendous e-commerce capabilities.

Sensor technologies, structural reliability and Bridge design using AASHTO/LRFD specifications courses illustrate civil engineering’s impact on improving America’s infrastructure and transportation safety standards. PE review courses are also online helping recent graduates entering the workforce.

RATE also provides instruction in Google Adwords and Salesforce CRM. CRM systems like Salesforce are powerful tools for entrepreneurs and business professionals to increase their bottom line by leveraging technology to manage contacts, implement targeted marketing campaigns, and interact with customers more efficiently than ever before.

www.rate.rutgers.edu