

leading off



The New Year Bang (Part 2)!

Whew! Another AHR Expo into the history books. Leading up to the industry's biggest gathering of manufacturers, wholesalers, engineers, contractors and technicians it seemed like they might all get a pleasant surprise weather-wise here in Chicago. But the law of averages prevailed, and we went from record-setting warmth and lack of snow through mid-January to the usual 20°F temperature and snow every few days to welcome everyone in traditional Windy City style.

Just before the Expo, RSES was delighted to announce that a well-known industry expert on education and certification decided to join us as our Director of Training and Testing. Patrick L. Murphy, CM—"Murph" to many—is bringing his considerable expertise in the field of technician competency to RSES to lead the development of our educational programs.

After leading the improvement of NATE's certification program for the last 11 years, culminating in earning ANSI recognition as an "accredited certifier" in their 17024 "personnel certification program," Pat now gets to work on the other side of the competency world. "Education and training are the cornerstones for developing better technicians" is how he describes it. "Training and certification go hand in hand—training provides the knowledge to do the job better, certification measures whether an individual has absorbed the training."

These developments mean 2012 is going to be even more interesting than I thought a month ago! With the economy slowly starting to gather some steam, energy efficiency remaining in the collective forefront of both consumers and regulators alike, and technician competency high on the list of things

necessary to achieve desired efficiencies and environmental protection—RSES is enthusiastic about providing its Members and the industry at large with improved educational offerings.

For those dedicated to delivering such education to a hungry workforce, this spring will see an expanded and improved "Instructor Workshop" in mid-March. This year, the event is moving from the self-contained conference center in Virginia to the beautiful Cheyenne Mountain Resort in Colorado Springs, CO, yet still features free conference registration and meals are included with lodging costs.

Officially renamed the 2012 HVACR & Mechanical Conference for Education Professionals, this year's event also features a number of additional sponsors: AMCA, ASHRAE, IAQA, IHACI, NADCA and NAFA. These six join traditional sponsors ACCA, ACTE, AHRI, CARE, HARDI, HRAI, OESP, PHCC, RSES and SkillsUSA. With this kind of industry firepower behind the event, attendees will have access to a wide variety of technical topics as well as the latest in instructional skills and design.

Being held March 12–14, interested educational professionals (instructors, trainers, professors, etc.) should register right away online at www.instructorworkshop.org.

See you soon. ☺

Mark Lowry
RSES Executive Vice President



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