

CONSTRUCTION CONNECTIONS

Volume 2, Number 5

DIRECTOR'S NOTES

As we move into winter, it's time to take stock of all the great initiatives and projects that have emerged throughout the fall. This volume of the newsletter is packed with just a sampling.

A number of organizations are working on exciting new projects and training programs. The Seattle-King County Workforce Development Council has convened a workgroup that is partnering with Habitat for Humanity to develop a program to promote construction apprenticeships through relevant training on Habitat building sites. Also, the King County Jobs Initiative (KCJI) recently applied for the EPA Brownfields Job Training Grant. The goal of KCJI's project is to connect low-income residents with meaningful employment opportunities while improving environmental quality in the Puget Sound region.

This fall has been a busy time for events that highlight and celebrate the construction industry. There were so many, in fact, that we couldn't fit them all in this newsletter. Stay tuned for details on the Washington Women in Trades 1st annual Dream Big Dinner, held on October 20. In addition, there were several very successful Construction Career Day events in October, in Spokane and Pasco, which will be highlighted in the next newsletter.

As always, please remember that we rely on our readers to keep us informed about what's happening around the state. We encourage you to submit information or write articles for this newsletter. We want to spotlight your students, instructors, schools and companies. If you have story ideas, please contact Julia Cordero at jcordero@rtc.edu.

~ Julia Cordero

Inside this issue:

Upcoming Events.....	2
Green Building Workshop at Renton Technical College.....	3
Pathways to Apprenticeship Event: March 26, 2008.....	3
Construction Math Toolbox Workshops 2008.....	3
WA Women Masons Head to Chile for Competition.....	3
2008 Calendars Support and Honor Women in the Trades.....	3
MBEF Launches Sed de Saber Rental Program.....	4
AGCEF Kicks Off Built It Smart Coffee House Program.....	4
New Vocational Technical School Slated for Yakima.....	5
CM Program at Edmonds Community College Earns National Recognition.....	5
LMEA Economic Symposium Focuses on WA State's Economy.....	6
SVI Annual Fundraising Dinner a Success.....	7
'What About Tomorrow?' Career Fair Attracts over 3,000 Attendees.....	7
Pierce County Construction Partnership Celebrates 5 Years.....	7
Innovative Classroom Instruction: Welding at Walla Walla CC.....	8



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UPCOMING EVENTS

For links and more information about any of these events, please visit the CCE website.

Western Washington Coordinators Association Meeting

January 11, 2008, Starts at 10:00am
Puget Sound Electrical Apprenticeship Building
550 SW 7th Street, Renton, WA 98055

This meeting is open to all Western WA Apprenticeship Coordinators and anyone with an interest in apprenticeship. For information, call Peter Lahmann at (360) 870-0706.

Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council Quarterly Meeting

January 17 & 18, 2008, Starts at 9:00am both days
L & I Building, Tumwater, WA

For additional information and meeting agendas, please visit the L&I Apprenticeship Website. You may also call Michael Thurman at (360) 902-5320.

New to Green Building?

Attend The Green Building 101 Workshop

February 19, 2008 @ 5:00-6:30pm

The workshop will be held at the King County Carpenters Training Center at Renton Technical College, and is hosted by the Washington State United Brotherhood of Carpenters JATC, Renton Technical College, and the Construction Center of Excellence. For additional information or to register for this **free** class, call 1-866-295-8764.

WA Association of Occupational Educators/Tech Prep Conference

March 6 & 7, 2008
Wenatchee Convention Center, Wenatchee, WA
For additional information, visit the WA-ACTE website.

Sixteenth Annual Road Less Graveled

Women: Explore Careers in Trades & Technology

March 21, 2008, 9:00am to 1:30pm
Bellingham Technical College, Building G

Outside demos, hands-on activities, opportunities to win prizes. Information and resources for employment, funding, and training will be available from local organizations and agencies. For more information, call Jane Lowe-Webster at (360) 752-8441. To register for this **free** conference, call (360) 752-8350.

Pathways to Apprenticeship Day: Save the Date

Event for Teachers and Counselors

March 26, 2008
Hosted by the Construction Center of Excellence. Watch for more information to be posted soon.

Washington State Apprenticeship and Training Council Quarterly Meeting

April 17 & 18, 2008, Starts at 9:00am both days
Duwamish Apprenticeship and Training Center
66770 East Marginal Way South, Seattle, WA 98108

For more information about the Training Center, visit the Training Center Website or call (206) 764-5350. For meeting information and agendas, please visit the L&I Apprenticeship Website, or call Michael Thurman at (360) 902-5320.

Washington Women in Trades Job Fair: Save the Date

May 2, 2008
More information to be posted later. Visit the Women in Trades website.

Construction Safety Day: Save the Date

Sponsored by Associated General Contractors and the Governor's Industrial Safety and Health Advisory Board
May 14, 2008, 8:00am to 4:30pm
Puyallup Fairgrounds
Call (360) 902-5446

NEWS IN BRIEF

Green Building Workshop offered at Renton Technical College

The Washington State United Brotherhood of Carpenters JATC, in cooperation with Renton Technical College, will host a 1 ½ hour Green Building Workshop on February 19, 2008. Through a collaboration with the Construction Center of Excellence, Cascadia Region Green Building Council, and WA General Administration, this class provides participants with an introduction and overview of green building in the State of Washington. This free class is listed in the latest *Carpenters Training News*, but is open to anyone who is interested in an introduction to green building. For more information, contact the Construction Center of Excellence at 425-235-2352, ext. 5582 or jcordero@rtc.edu. To register for this workshop, call 1-866-295-8764.

Save the Date: The Pathways to Apprenticeship Event – March 26, 2008

Studies show that teachers are often the first – and sometimes the only – information source students seek out for career advice. Yet many teachers are not familiar with apprenticeship training programs in the building industry, and thus are not able to offer this option to their students.

The Pathways to Apprenticeship event was created with this issue in mind. The first Pathways was held in 1997, and has been a well-received success each time it has taken place in Washington. For those not familiar with the event, it is a full-day program designed for teachers, counselors, parents, or case managers, to provide them with an overview and basic understanding of the apprenticeship training model. The day includes ½ day of breakout sessions with topics related to apprenticeship, such as “*Apprenticeship is only the beginning*,” which highlights the exciting careers of people who had their start as apprentices. The afternoon program consists of visits to apprenticeship training sites, where participants receive tours of the facilities and meet instructors and apprentices. Teachers can receive clock hours for attending this event. Watch the Construction Center of Excellence Events listing on our website for more details.

Construction Math Toolbox Workshops in 2008

The Associated General Contractors Education Foundation (AGCEF) will be offering the successful Construction Math Institute and In-Service Math Workshop for Teachers in 2008. Pre-registration is required, and there is a maximum of 20 participants per class. Tentative dates for these events are: (1) February 2008 in Eastern Washington for the ½ day in-service workshop; and (2) March 2008 in Western Washington for the five-day CMI workshop. Watch the newsletter for more news on this program, or contact Derek Sparks at dsparks@agcwa.com.

Washington Women Masons Head to Chile for Competition

Several National Association for Women in Masonry (NAWM) tradeswomen are traveling to Santiago, Chile, to take part in a competition called Expo Hormigon. They are returning after showing off their talents at last year’s Expo. The women are Laura Johnson, Mary Denning (both from Local #82) and Mary Lovette (from BAC Local #1). Stay tuned for more details upon their return. Read more about this trip on the www.sistersinthebuildingtrades.org website.

2008 Calendars Support and Honor Women in the Trades

Gift-giving season is here, so why not support women in the building trades while giving a unique and inspiring gift? Washington Women in the Trades is offering a 2008 Rosie the Riveter calendar, featuring photos of 12 Rosies who are living Northwest legends. The calendar is dedicated to the six million women – mothers, grandmothers, aunts, daughters – who joined the workforce during World War II, filling the country’s manufacturing jobs made vacant by male workers fighting overseas. This calendar is dedicated to the strength, grace, and courage of the Rosies. It was printed in a very limited run, so order soon at <http://www.wawomenintrades.com/merchandise.html>.

Sisters in the Building Trades is also offering an inspiring 2008 calendar featuring “Ironworker Women.” This calendar is filled with photos from around the country of ironworking women on the job. Follow the link on the right side of the Sisters homepage (www.sistersinthebuildingtrades.org) to purchase this calendar.

NEWS IN DEPTH

Master Builders Education Foundation (MBEF) Launches Sed de Saber Rental Program

On September 10, 2007, Master Builders Education Foundation rolled out a new rental program that addresses an emerging issue in the changing population of the U.S. construction workforce – language barriers on the job site.

Employers can now rent an innovative product, the **Sed de Saber Construction Edition**, which uses a seven-book, fully interactive curriculum to teach Spanish-speaking workers a functional level of English-language conversation and comprehension. Due to the LeapFrog Quantum Pad technology, a student can record, play back and compare his/her voice to the proper pronunciation of the words being learned.

The construction edition was created by the Home Builders Institute, the workforce development arm of the NAHB. The curriculum teaches 500 vocabulary words and 340 phrases covering basic life skills such as following driving directions, as well as detailed job site scenarios, tools, equipment, and scheduling. The seventh book focuses entirely on safety, mirroring the NAHB/OSHA *Job Site Safety Handbook*.

Translated to mean “Thirst for Knowledge,” the product first appeared in the hospitality industry in 2005, and has since impacted over 26,000 workers. Successes from this industry show that **Sed de Saber** serves as a recruiting tool, promotes loyalty, encourages career advancement, and boosts productivity.

Immigrant employees with language barriers often have to juggle more than one job, and they often lack home computers. Factors like these make it difficult for them to attend ESL classes at night or online. **Sed de Saber**, on the other hand, allows them to learn at their own pace when time is available. Workers who follow the study guidelines of 30 minutes each day will complete the program in about four months.

For more information about the MBEF rental program, contact Gabriel Blanco, Education Foundation Coordinator at (425) 278-0228.

Associated General Contractors Education Foundation (AGCEF) Kicks Off *Build It Smart*

The AGCEF kicked off a new project on September 21, 2007, when the first **Build It Smart Coffee House** was completed at Stanton Construction Academy in the Yakima School District.

Build it Smart addresses the fact that there is a large workforce gap developing in the construction industry as current workers retire and not enough younger workers replace them. By exposing students to the career diversity of the industry at an early age, AGCEF hopes to show students that construction can offer many excellent jobs at living wages, whether or not they choose to supplement their education with a college degree.

The program begins by taking students through pre-construction, where they learn about safety and different tools of the trades. Once building begins, students learn that each wall of the Coffee House highlights specific trades. For example, one wall is constructed of steel studs and contains an electrical panel, while another highlights plumbing as students install a sink. Students walk away from the experience with a basic introduction to the trades.

Although the primary target audience for **Build It Smart** is 5th to 8th graders, the project will also host high school students, women’s groups, and other organizations interested in workforce development.

The AGCEF has partnered with South Seattle Community College Duwamish Apprenticeship and Education Center to bring **Build It Smart** to students. Currently, most bookings for the program are made at the Duwamish campus, where the Coffee House currently resides. Once a second Coffee House is built, the AGCEF plans to develop a traveling tour of the program throughout Washington, while the first house will remain at the Duwamish campus.

Build It Smart is a collaboration of many dedicated individuals and companies. The building was constructed by students at the Stanton Construction Academy, under the guidance of instructor Ben Elliott. Derek Sparks, K-12 Program Director for the AGCEF, is the primary facilitator of the workshops, and Ann Marie Diggs, Outreach Specialist, leads programs at the South Seattle Community College Campus. AGCEF is currently recruiting volunteers to assist with facilitation both locally and at programs around the state.

For more information about the **Build It Smart** program, or to schedule the program for your school or organization,

(Continued on page 5)

please contact Megan Rubie, Educational Outreach Associate at the AGCEF, by phone at 206.284.4500 or email at [mru-
bie@agcwa.com](mailto:mrubie@agcwa.com).

New Vocational Technical School Slated for Yakima

After several false starts, the new Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center (YV-Tech) may have finally found a home. The new site proposal, which is the third location identified by school officials, is a 10-acre parcel of county-owned land near the jail and State Fair Park. The land is currently leased to the Central Washington Fair Association (CWFA), but the county and the CWFA have reached a verbal agreement to allow the school district to buy the property for \$1.5 million.

YV-Tech offers a variety of technical training programs designed to support key companies and industries within the region. The Skills Center offers programs and customized training in several areas including health care, computer technology, carpentry, aviation technology and more. According to David McFadden, New Vision President, "YV-Tech works closely with local industries to design and deliver programs that are tailored to meet their specific requirements. The expansion will help us respond to industry demands and complement other existing vocational programs within the region."

As a result of the expansion, YV-Tech plans to add new programs in the culinary arts, wine industry, and computer-engineering, and will expand other programs such as nursing and computer programming.

Yakima Valley Technical Skills Center works closely with Yakima Valley Community College, Perry Technical Institute and other technical and community colleges to provide advanced placement and credits for high schools students who complete the programs. Currently, over 50% of the YV-TECH programs are connected to post secondary training. This significantly reduces student training time and costs beyond the high school level and allows students to enter the work force sooner and with applicable industry training.

Once the new center is up and running, it will support a population of some 1200 students, with 500 attending in the morning, 500 in the afternoon, and as many as 200 attending classes in the evening. The new Skills Center will be built in two phases, and is anticipated to break ground in May 2008. School officials plan to begin accepting students in the fall of 2009.

Construction Management Program at Edmonds Community College Earns National Recognition

The Construction Management program at Edmonds Community College has been accredited by the American Council for Construction Education (ACCE), a nationally recognized accrediting agency for both two- and four-year programs in construction. Edmonds is one of only eight similarly accredited Associate Degree programs within the United States and Canada, with the next closest located in Saskatchewan. There are currently 60 four-year programs in the United States that carry this designation, including the University of Washington, Central Washington University, and Washington State University.

To gain accreditation, a college's program must meet the Council's standards and submit to a peer review and site visit. The ACCE will continue to guide the college's program and review its accreditation after five years. An advisory board of stakeholders from the construction and inspection community will support and guide the program locally.

Edmond's Construction Management program serves about 200 students each quarter. It is designed mainly for incumbent workers who are seeking to move into supervision and estimating positions within the industry. Course topics include business and project management, estimating, codes, inspection, and construction-related computer applications. Students may take one or two classes to upgrade job skills, pursue a two-year Construction Management degree or earn a one-year certificate in Building Inspection, Civil Construction or Construction Management. A recent survey of 20 graduates, a year after completing their degree, showed average annual wages of \$47,555.

For more information about Construction Management at Edmonds Community College, call (425) 640-1026, email const@edcc.edu, or visit <http://const.edcc.edu>.

The college also has a pre-apprenticeship construction training certificate, which prepares students for entry-level trade jobs in the industry. Call (425) 640-1604, email business@edcc.edu, or visit <http://cit.edcc.edu>.

13th Annual LMEA Economic Symposium Focuses on Washington State's Economy

On November 8, 2007, the Washington State Employment Security Department Labor Market and Economic Analysis (LMEA) branch hosted its 13th Economic Symposium at Worthington Center on the Campus of Saint Martin's University in Lacey, Washington.

LMEA economists and administrators presented a program that provided the nearly 100 symposium attendees with a current analysis of labor market and economic issues that are shaping the state.

Dr. Evelina Tainer, LMEA's Chief Economist, addressed the audience with a national and state economic update and outlook. Much of the data can be found in LMEA's "WA State Employment Situation Report for September 2007." Overall numbers, as well as construction-related highlights of this report appear below:

- The unemployment rate in Washington (seasonally adjusted) was 4.8% for September 2007, compared to 4.7% for the U.S in the same month. Washington numbers were down 0.3 percentage points from Sept 2006, but up slightly from a rate of 4.6% for August 2007.
- Within the goods-producing sector, construction posted the largest year-over-year payroll gain in September 2007 (+15,200), with a gain of 7.7% from 2006 to 2007. Behind it were service-providing payrolls (up 2.4%) and professional/business services (up 4.4%).
- In the goods-producing sector for September 2007, construction employment increased by 1,500 jobs, making it the industry sector with the 2nd largest job growth (behind education and health services at 1,700 jobs).
- Construction payroll growth moderated over the summer months, but accelerated again in September. This is in sharp contrast to the nation where construction payrolls have posted declines in six of the nine months of 2007. Washington state residential construction payrolls have moderated their rate of growth over the past several months, but were still 3.4% higher than a year ago.
- Nonresidential construction jobs were up 10.5% relative to Sept 2006, showing steady strength. Construction jobs contributed the most to the over-the-year gain in total payrolls in September.

Scott Bailey, LMEA Regional Labor Economist for Southwest Washington, provided an update on the Department's *Wage Distribution Study*, which is available due to the fact that Washington is one of only three states in nation that collects hourly wage information on its population. As part of the presentation, Mr. Bailey showed a list of the fourteen industries that had the highest proportion of \$30+/hour jobs in Washington between 2002 and 2006. The Construction industry tied Local Government for 4th place in the list – 1st was Information, 2nd Healthcare/Social Service, and 3rd Professional Services, which would include architecture and engineering. This is an increase from the 1990-2006 span, where Construction ranked 6th, surpassed by both Manufacturing and Local Government sectors, in addition to Information, Healthcare/Social Services, and Professional Services.

One of the highlights of the afternoon programming, titled "Labor Market Information is Good Public Policy," was presented by Michael Paris, who is the Education Program Administrator for the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC). According to Mr. Paris, the DOC has developed an application process to help it select which vocational programs to offer at its facilities throughout state.

The application process was developed and is overseen by the Vocational Programs Advisory Committee (VPAC), which is composed of members from the State Board of Community and Technical Colleges (SBCTC), educators, labor representatives, LMEA personnel, and other interested parties. The process is straightforward: the DOC receives solicitations (via a form called the Vocational Program Proposal) from groups who wish to provide training. Potential programs are then scored according to a VPAC-designed "Program Proposal Review Score Sheet," many factors of which are based on local labor market data.

Once programs have been selected by the review process, the DOC contracts with SBCTC to provide the training. The SBCTC then contracts with individual vendors, who provide training on-site at the correction facility. This chain of responsibility ensures that the contents of the training programs align with other SBCTC-supported programs, such as those available at community and technical colleges around the state. A number of facilities now have construction-related training programs that were implemented as a result of this process.

For more information on the VPAC program, contact Mike Paris at (360) 725-8211 or by email at mjparis@doc1.wa.gov.

Seattle Vocational Institute Annual Fundraising Dinner a Success

On Saturday, October 13, 2007, Seattle Vocational Institute (SVI) held its 7th Annual Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training (PACT) celebration dinner at the Brockey Center at South Seattle Community College. This is the school's major fundraising event for the year, and highlights included live jazz as well as food prepared by students of South Seattle's culinary program.

This year's theme was "Inspiring Lives," and attracted over 300 attendees, including contractors, union and apprenticeship representatives, community members, and past and present SVI students. According to Diane Davies, program administrator for the PACT program, the event "...gives us an opportunity to pull together our supporters, Advisory Board, staff and students to celebrate our graduates' achievements."

In keeping with the dinner's theme, five graduates of the PACT program presented a surprise award to Tony Johnson, superintendent for Lease Crutcher Lewis and member of SVI's Advisory Board. The honor was in recognition of Mr. Lewis' dedication to training, encouragement and mentorship. Of the five former students, all of whom went on to apprenticeship programs, three have already completed their training and are journeymen. One of these journeymen, Ray Hall, spoke to the audience about the positive influence of SVI's program on his life and career.

The keynote speaker for the event was Tay Yoshitani, CEO of the Port of Seattle. Other speakers included Bob Markholt (SVI's PACT program coordinator), Peter Coates (Special Projects Manager for the King County Brightwater Project), and Master of Ceremonies, Lee Newgent (Assistant to the Executive Secretary, Seattle/King County Building and Construction Trades Council, AFL-CIO).

The "Inspiring Lives" event raised \$60K for the PACT program at SVI, which will be used for many support services not covered by other funds, including scholarships and other services essential to the success of its students.

"What About Tomorrow?" Career Fair

Excerpted From WDC of Snohomish County November Newsletter

On October 16, 2007, the Workforce Development Council of Snohomish County co-sponsored the 3rd Annual "What about Tomorrow?" Career and College Fair. The Workforce Development Council and Everett Public Schools partnered with four other school districts for this event: Arlington, Edmonds, Lake Stevens and Mukilteo. The fair hosted 2,600 students during two scheduled day-time field trip sessions. An additional 727 students, parents, and visitors attended during the evening open session.

131 exhibitors participated in the fair, providing attendees with information on careers, apprenticeship programs, college and university programs, and other training opportunities. 59 of these exhibitors represented the top nine demand industries in Snohomish County. The success of the Career and College Fair is a testimony to the power of the partnerships between school districts, local businesses and industries, workforce development, and educational partners in Snohomish County.

Pierce County Construction Partnership Celebrates 5 Years

Pierce County's Construction Partnership Council met on November 5, 2007 to celebrate its 5th year anniversary. The event was attended by thirty Council members and was hosted by Van Collins, AGC District Manager for the Southern District, at the AGC office in Tacoma.

Since the inception of the Pierce County Construction Partnership in 2002, the Partnership has grown to more than 100 partners, including representatives from labor, industry, government, education, and community based organizations. The Partnership includes representatives from not only Pierce County, but also Washington State.

This private-public partnership has resulted in the procurement of \$1.5 million in public resources and more than \$680,000 in private resources to implement programs that respond to the construction industry's workforce needs.

The meeting commenced with a brief review of the Partnership's successful programs, presented by Linda Nguyen, Executive Director of the Tacoma Pierce County Employment & Training Consortium. Program efforts include:

- **ACE Academy:** Industry and education-supported magnet program located at Rogers High School in Puyallup. This program provides students with knowledge, skills, and exposure to architecture, construction and engineering.

(Continued on page 8)

- **School to Apprenticeship Program:** Industry-initiated program that provides paid on-the-job and classroom training to high school juniors in a specific trade. Currently available in electrical, carpentry, and sheet metal, with plans for replication in more trades and other areas regionally and nationally.
- **Tacoma School District Construction Trades Pathway:** Magnet high school program for juniors and seniors where students gain skills and exposure in carpentry and construction-related careers. Includes integration of employability and leadership skills.
- **Ironworker, Masonry, and Painting Pre-Apprenticeship Training:** Supported through the Metropolitan Development Council and WIA funds, trade-specific training integrated with life skills and case management.
- **Youth Workforce Development Initiative:** Two-tier effort to promote high demand careers (construction and health) and link youth with scholarships to continue education/training within chosen high demand career field.

The Partnership is also active in the development of training opportunities for incumbent workers:

- **Tools for Success/Construction 101:** Training soft skills and jobsite readiness for construction workers.
- **Industry-Specific Skills Training:** Customized training in leadership, management, sales/marketing, etc.
- **Applied Spanish Training:** Vocational Spanish language/cultural training for English-speaking supervisors.
- **Bridging Construction Professionals:** Industry training to gain required skills needed to retain employment and/or be positioned for increased responsibility
- **Pierce College Construction Management Program:** Industry supported construction management degree program for new and incumbent workers who wish to gain skills in management, leadership, communication, ethics, technology, etc.

The meeting concluded with announcements of upcoming 2008 projects, including a “Pathways to Apprenticeship” event for teachers and an interactive Construction Career Day for students.

Spotlight on Innovation Classroom Instruction: Welding at Walla Walla Community College

Computer technology is part of the everyday classroom experience for students in the welding program at Walla Walla Community College. Instructor Mike Haggard has been using the **eInstruction Classroom Performance System (CPS)** for three years, after learning about it at an American Welding Society Training Institute.

Mike says the program is generally well-liked by students, and he attributes some of its popularity to the fact that it appeals to the hands-on students the welding program tends to attract. Referring to a recent exam, Mike described the classroom atmosphere: “Today I watched 19 students *enjoy* participating in a chapter test. A fellow instructor asked me what were we doing – he heard the students during the exam racing to see who could answer each question first ... he said it was the first time he’d ever seen and heard students having fun during an exam.”

Mike Haggard and his welding class benefit from this system in numerous ways. Mike likes the flexibility of being able to integrate PowerPoint, Word, and Excel materials into his presentations, and he appreciates the instant feedback both he and his students receive during quizzes and tests. Not only can he see how individual students are doing, but he can review the responses to individual questions, which allows him to analyze and identify student problem areas and gaps in understanding.

What exactly is CPS? It is a classroom audience response system technology pioneered by eInstruction in the 1980s. The basis system consists of a projector, a computer with CPS software, a receiver, and response pads for students. The instructor may also purchase an optional CPS Chalkboard, which is a wireless, handheld tablet that allows the freedom to teach from anywhere in the room. The projector is also optional, and allows the display of questions, class results, and any media the instructor wants to show to the class. The CPS Software runs on the instructor’s computer, and compiles data and tabulates grades instantly. The response pad looks like a simple TV remote control, and allows students to respond to questions displayed through the projector or verbally asked by instructor.

Although Mike is not aware of other instructors using this system at Walla Walla Community College, he did point out that the company’s website lists K-12 and post-secondary schools as well as businesses that use CPS. Recently, Mike attended a Welding Instructor Association Meeting in Bellingham, and promoted the system to his colleagues.

For more information on the eInstruction CPS system, visit www.eInstruction.com.