

Learning in Progress

March 2008



Improving the Performance of the Transportation Industry through Training

In This Issue

NHI Real Solutions Seminar Series

TCCC: Partnering with NHI to Provide Quality Training

Instructors of Excellence Awards

NHI Announces Recipients of Instructors of Excellence Awards

NTTD Approve NHI's Direction

New Feature on NHI Web site for FHWA Enrollment

NHI Renews Delivery Contracts

Courses of Excellence

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Quick Links

www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov

www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/tccc

NHIMarketing@dot.gov

NHI Real Solutions Seminar Series

Over 100 participants attended NHI's first Real Solutions Web seminar March 20th. The NHI Real Solutions Seminar series features speakers who will present solutions about issues they've faced in the field and how those problems were solved.

The March 20th event featured special guest speaker Bill Bowlby, Ph.D., P.E. and President of Bowlby & Associates, Inc. He presented *Solving Old Traffic Noise Ills - Tennessee Type II Noise Abatement Program*. After his presentation, Mr. Bowlby, along with panelists Jim Ozment of the Tennessee DOT and Darlene Reiter of Bowlby & Associates, fielded comments during a question and answer session. You can view the recorded session [here](#).

NHI Real Solutions will be presented monthly on the fourth Thursday of the month from 1:00 - 2:30 pm Eastern. Please join us for the April Seminar!

To register for *NHI Real Solutions* Seminars, visit the NHI Web conference Event Calendar at www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov.

Watch for an announcement from NHI for details about the upcoming event!

Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council: *Partnering with NHI to Provide Quality Training*

NHI joined the TCCC at its Indianapolis, IN conference in February and identified training priorities for the coming year. NHI and TCCC partner to develop training and are emphasizing distance-learning. "The intent is to give agencies and contractors good, quick training for employees to help them save travel time," said Chris Anderson, technical training coordinator for Iowa DOT, who serves as the chair of the TCCC's curriculum development team. "It's a money-saving way to get the skills to the people who need them."

To see a complete listing of the training that NHI and TCCC have developed jointly, visit the NHI Web site and do a keyword search on "TCCC" or visit www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/tccc.

NHI Announces Recipients of Instructors of Excellence Awards

Congratulations to the recipients of the first annual Instructors of Excellence Awards. Awards were given in two categories: Instructor Special Recognition and Team Administrative Award. Nominees were judged based on various criteria including instructor satisfaction rankings and NHI Certification. Eight deserving Instructors were chosen to receive the awards. The winners are:

Instructor Special Recognition:

Susan Mosher, Perform Tech., Inc.

Robert Merryman, O. R. Colan, Inc.

Ted Pluta, O. R. Colan, Inc.

Team Administrative Awards:

Katie Zimmerman, Applied Pavement Tech., Inc and Dean Testa, Pavement Solutions, Inc. for FHWA-NHI-131107

Jim Collin, Collin Group, Ltd. For FHWA-NHI-132013

Larry Arneson, FHWA and Peter Lagasse, Owen Ayres & Associates, Inc. for FHWA-NHI-135010.

National Training Directors (NTTD) Approve NHI's Direction

In focus groups held with NTTD members in February, NHI gained approval from NTTD leadership for its program improvements made over the last two and a half years. The participants said NHI is on the right track and offered suggestions for future improvements.

NHI posed questions to focus group participants concerning current and future training delivery models, as well as questions concerning possible improvements to NHI training development models. The group was unanimous in their position that NHI continue to provide Instructor-led classroom-based workshops, requested a continued emphasis on distance-learning opportunities, voiced support for the NHI Real Solutions series, and provided specific suggestions for future course developments.

To learn more about the focus groups held, visit the NHI Web site www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov.

New Feature on NHI Web site for FHWA Enrollment

At the request of customers, FHWA employees can now enroll for sessions and Web-based training through the NHI Web site. This new feature was well received by session hosts, who can now receive notifications when participants enroll via the NHI Web site. If you are an FHWA employee interested in NHI Training, contact your Training Coordinator to enroll you.

For those of you that would like to enroll multiple participants, or enroll someone other than yourself, that feature is now available. The participant information will be taken at checkout. Simply update the quantity according to the number of participants you are enrolling and enter their information in the fields provided.

If you have questions about these new features, please contact Lexi Buscaglia at 703.235.0556 or NHIWebmaster@dot.gov.

Update: NHI Renews Delivery Contracts

NHI renews Instructor contracts once every five years. We are currently in the middle of that cycle, and we'd like to thank our customers for their patience while we make this transition. Contracts were recently renewed for courses in the pavements, materials, construction, and maintenance categories. The process is now underway for operations and freight courses.

Courses of Excellence

During the second quarter of Fiscal Year 2008, NHI's course satisfaction ratings averaged 4.36 on a 5-point scale. NHI instructor satisfaction averaged a 4.49 on a 5-point scale. Based upon the feedback we are receiving, NHI is updating its course materials and providing training to instructors to continue improving service to our customers.

December 20, 2007 - March 18, 2008

Courses of Excellence				
Course Number	Course Title	# of Sessions	Total # Trainees	Average
130053	Bridge Inspection Refresher Training	3	91	4.6
130088	Bridge Construction Inspection	3	71	4.6
132070	Drilled Shaft Foundation Inspection	2	41	4.6
420018	Instructor Development Course (3.5-Day)	1	12	4.6
130055	Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges	5	138	4.5
131032	TCCC Hot-Mix Asphalt Construction	2	44	4.5
132079	Subsurface Investigation Qualification	1	29	4.5
135027	Urban Drainage Design (3-Day)	1	21	4.5
135065	Introduction to Highway Hydraulics	2	57	4.5

Staff Updates

Joe Toole, Associate Administrator for the Office of Professional and Corporate Development, has been the interim Acting Executive Director for FHWA since mid-January 2008.

Thank you for taking the time to review our NHI updates. We look forward to continuing to serve the transportation community.

Please contact Ann Gretter at NHIMarketing@dot.gov with questions and feedback. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

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