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Construction Management Technology News

Spring 2002

SENIOR STUDENTS: We are about to graduate another class of excellent students. Almost all the students have construction experience. Many have extensive construction experience. Be sure to check out our web page for information on students.

ENROLLMENT – There are 93 students enrolled in the construction management technology program. Enrollment has been steadily increasing.

DONATIONS – We owe many thanks to Eldon Morrison, CPM Constructors. His kind and generous donations have helped fund the concrete field testing technician certification exams. CMT faculty have contributed over \$2000 to the CMT program and scholarships during the last year. Donations are used to fund scholarships, publication of brochures, and to help fund students at regional and national competitions.

NEW FACULTY — The Construction Management Technology program is pleased to welcome Ray Werkmeister. Ray is an associate professor in the program. He is a professional engineer with considerable experience in industrial construction.

CONCRETE FIELD TESTING TECHNICIAN CERTIFICATION - CPM Constructors paid for three of our students to take the certification exam last spring. Dragon Cement has agreed to participate next year. Professional exams and certifications help students with employment and to achieve higher starting salaries.

ASC COMPETITION TEAM — Again this year, the Construction Management Technology program is sponsoring a team of six seniors and three juniors to participate in the regional estimating competition hosted by Perini for the Associated Schools of Construction (ASC). This year the regional competition will be held at a new location in New Jersey, March 7th-9th. The team will be asked to prepare, present and defend a bid on a very challenging project, a Fly-Over Highway Bridge in New York City. After winning the regional competition, the team is making plans to represent the University of Maine and the northeast region of ASC in the nationals held in Las Vegas, March 18th-23rd.

The faculty advisors this year are both Chuck Gould and Ray Werkmeister. The team members are Ryan Labreque - captain, Matthew Hebert, Adam Meyer, Ryan Maheux, Shawn Mcdougall, Kellie Kelliher, John Phillips, Thomas Carey, and Travis Whitehead. Only six students are allowed to participate on the team. Three juniors will be given the opportunity to share the experience and be alternates if needed. This will ensure our continued strong winning participation in this competition next year.

RECRUITING — Professor Chuck Gould is actively recruiting prospective students for the CMT Program. He is targeting promising individuals, who have a minimum of 3 years full-time employment in commercial, industrial, heavy or highway construction. He will travel to meet with them, individually and in person, to discuss academic requirements and financial

assistance. If you are aware of anyone, who would benefit from such an opportunity, please contact Chuck at 581-2374 or at the email address on the letterhead.

Frequently Asked Questions – Employing CMT Students

WHY ARE GRADUATES RELUCTANT TO WORK FROM THE BOTTOM UP? Many potential employers would like to start employees working in a variety of manual labor positions to familiarize them with both the employees, various construction tasks, and the construction firm before they are moved into supervisor or management positions. Prospective employers are disappointed when students turn down the offers under these initial conditions. The problem is not that the students are lazy. The problem is that the students are receiving so many job offers they can pick and choose. Naturally most students opt to enter management or supervisory positions immediately rather than work their way in to that position. Students opt to learn in the position rather than learn their way toward the position.

WELL-ROUNDED EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER. HOW CAN I ATTRACT GRADUATES WHEN I DEMAND THEY GET PRACTICAL WORK EXPERIENCE BEFORE MOVING INTO MANAGEMENT? The best place to start is by hiring students for summer employment, while they are in college. Starting after the first year of college, students don't expect to be in management. They look for and welcome any construction employment. Co-op and summer intern positions give employers and employees a chance to learn together and learn about one another.

HOW CAN I EMPLOY MORE STUDENTS IN THE SUMMER? Students are most likely to take summer jobs near where their parents live or near their college apartment. They are trying to save money for college. Accordingly, they can save more money by living at home with their parents or to continue living where they have to pay rent. Some employers attract students by paying per diem or provide housing for students during the summer.

WOULD CMT STUDENTS BE WILLING TO TAKE JOBS IN OTHER STATES UPON GRADUATION? Oh yes! Many students are looking for an opportunity to move away from home – especially to a warmer climate. Approximately one-third of the class are non-residents. A few of these students plan to move back to their home state to work.

HOW CAN I HIRE SUMMER OR PERMANENT HELP? Send us a position announcement (preferably by e-mail). We will see the announcement is sent to all students. We always welcome potential employers who would like to interview students. We will help you set up an interview schedule and provide you with a room to conduct interviews.