

LEARNING

Volume 12, No. 2
Summer 2011

Curve

NETWORKING THE FINEST EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Featured School

**Houston Community College
@ Houston, Texas**



Houston Community College (HCC) in Houston, Texas began truck-driver training in 1995 with one tractor and one trailer. Today, it has expanded to include 24 tractors, 25 trailers, and it employs 13 full-time instructors, four support staff, one mechanic, and numerous part-time instructors.

The program is located at the Northeast campus of HCC. It occupies 13 acres, which includes a 13,000-square-foot building with nine classrooms, one computer lab, and an oval track 7/10th of a mile long, with a large concrete skills area for backing, docking, and parking exercises.

The day program is a 286-hour, PTDI certified program, with HCC awarded a five-year certification in December 2010. This was the third renewal with PTDI. Other programs offered include weekend classes; evening classes and several contract

training classes with both local and national companies. HCC has new open enrollment classes that begin every two weeks and contract classes that begin weekly.

Over the years, HCC has enjoyed high graduation and placement rates for its students. As the truck-driving training industry changes, HCC must constantly make changes to its curriculum in order to provide students with the best possible tools for success. HCC has witnessed many changes to its student population – and with these changes it has learned to adapt so that students are ready to begin their new career in the trucking industry. In the coming year, the school will incorporate more online activities, with new industry resources available to make this possible.

Since the program's inception, more than 10,000 HCC students have completed truck-driver training and embarked on a new career. The ability to help change a person's life and put them "on the road to success" is very rewarding for HCC instructors and staff. Many students have become successful drivers, owner operators, and fleet operators. They have experienced a positive financial impact, which gives them a new opportunity to support their family.

Welcome New Members!

Full Membership:
Apollo Career Center
Lima OH

Southern Crescent Technical College
Griffen, GA

North Georgia Technical College
Clarksville, GA (Renewed Full member)

2012 National Convention

Memphis, Tennessee
Watch for more information
on the NAPFTDS website –
www.napftds.org.

HCC truck-driver training has a long association with the National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools (NAPFTDS), Truckload Carriers Association (TCA), Texas Motor Transportation Association (TMTA), Gulf Coast Fleet Maintenance Council, and the Greater Houston Safety Council. Interaction with industry allows the program greater access to product knowledge, rules and regulations that we can incorporate to enhance student learning.

HCC looks forward to facing the current challenges so that it can continue to provide safe entry-level drivers for the transportation industry.

For more information, contact Houston Community College, 555 Community College Drive, Bldg. B, Houston, TX 77013, martin.garsee@hccs.edu or visit www.hccs.edu.

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Back in the Saddle Again!

The NAPFTDS Board recently filled the executive director position after a one-year vacancy when Robert McClanahan, former executive director, accepted the position. The director position has been missed during the last year, and the Board is glad to have him return. Welcome back Robert!



Annual Convention – A Time for Discussion

*By Robert McClanahan
Executive Director NAPFTDS*

In April, we once again had an opportunity to meet at our annual convention, which was held this year in Savannah, Georgia. We listened to speakers discuss current issues facing the training industry. In addition, funding issues, regulations, CSA and trucking companies' need for drivers were other topics that were highlighted during this year's convention.

This was also a time for all of us to talk with our peers to learn what each of us is doing to solve today's challenges. Budget cuts in most states have affected many of us – so dealing with cuts and enrollment problems are issues that we have now and may have for the next couple of years. Adjusting to these issues will be difficult, but as increased demand for our students continue, we will need more support from our carrier partners. We will need them to step up and talk with funding agencies to educate them on the importance of our training programs and the job opportunities available to those willing to learn a new career.

I thank Schneider National, Werner Enterprises and US Xpress for their participation at this year's convention. They have already stepped up to the plate in support of our Association and member schools. A special thanks to Pat Quinn, Chairman of US Xpress for his comments during our banquet; and to Dave Osiecki, VP Safety American Trucking Association, for

RULES & RIGs

his industry update. All of our speakers were great, and we appreciate their attendance.

We also heard from Kevin Lewis with the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (AAMVA) about the new skill requirements as proposed, in the soon to be released, CDL Learners Permit regulation. And again we heard from Rich Clemente with Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) explaining the many issues and regulations coming from that agency. He also explained the regulatory process and why it seems to take so long for them to issue a final rule. There are many steps in the regulatory process and many comments they have to read on each proposal before they can issue a final rule.

We all know the federal government moves at a slow pace. Remember, I have been waiting since 1991 for the Entry Level Training rule. I was a young man when this started ... I may not see a final ruling before my retirement.

It was a great experience at this year's convention. Thanks to our Convention Committee for putting this all together. Now you can start planning on attending one of our regional meetings coming this fall in your area. *Watch for upcoming regional news on our website, www.napftds.org.*

Special thanks to our ad
sponsors in this issue of

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Please consider their quality products
and services. For information on
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Crissie Moffet, cmoffet@napftds.org

NAPFTDS MEMBERSHIP PRE-APPLICATION

Organization/Company: _____

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FULL MEMBERSHIP (\$175): Any publicly funded school or representative employee of that school engaged directly in providing truck driver training.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP (\$350): Any industry or representative employee of that industry which indirectly supports public truck driving schools, limited to agencies such as trucking companies, insurance companies, publishers, and equipment manufacturers interested in the welfare of publicly funded truck driving schools.

AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP (\$250): Limited to administrators or staff at a publicly funded school interested in the trucking industry or administrators in schools that contract with proprietary organizations to provide truck driver training.

THE NEXT STEP: Application for membership shall be made on an application form as may be required by the Board of Directors. A majority vote of the Board of Directors is necessary for the acceptance of an application for membership. All applicants who have been accepted into the membership of the Association must submit a fully completed and signed application form that, by doing, signifies their adherence of the Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws of said Association. Membership in the applicable class shall be complete upon application of the Association, approval of the Board, and payment of the appropriate dues.

Return form to:

Tina Frindt, Treasurer, NAPFTDS
1900 Corporate Center Drive East, Suite 100
Tobyhanna, PA 18466
Fax: 570-839-3534

Questions about membership may be directed to:
Crissie Moffet, Board Technical Assistant, cmoffet@napftds.org

Important notice to those who are not yet members of NAPFTDS

If you are not a member of the Association, and you would like to continue receiving the *Learning Curve* and other benefits of membership, please complete the **MEMBERSHIP PRE-APPLICATION FORM** in this newsletter and return with your payment of appropriate dues. While we have generous supporters, member dues are the backbone of our Association.

Happenings at the 2011 Convention in Savannah, Georgia

This year's convention was a hit ... there was representation of 35 schools, 7 organizations and 11 sponsors. Presentations were pertinent to what is happening all over the country in our truck driver-training programs

such as dealing with budget cuts, shortage of student funding-funding involvement by carriers, work ethics, regulatory happenings that will affect us all. The most important and critical activity at this year's convention was

the networking done by all attendees ... whether at the convention or on the riverfront ... how schools are handling the challenges and how does this affect us. The days were filled with presentations with the reception the first night and the banquet the second.



Dr. Margie Reese/Patricia Cooper, WIA, presented "Workforce Funding Opportunities", followed by discussion with attendees.



Kevin Lewis, AAMVA Representative, presented "CDL Testing, Now and in the Future".



Maury Tiehen, San Juan College, discusses drug and alcohol issues with presenter, **Vincent Picciarelli.**

The association would also like to thank **Rick Greenaker, San Juan College-Farmington, New Mexico,** for taking pictures at this year's conference.



Stephen Sprague, Chief, Hwy Sec. Prog. Br, TSA, presenting "TSA Safety & Security/TWIC for Comrc'l Drivers"



David Osiecki, Sr. V.P. for Policy & Regulatory Affairs, ATA, did an ATA update on current regulations and how it will affect the transportation industry.



Dr. Diane Wright, Educational Consultant/Past President East Central Technical College, Fitzgerald, GA, presenting "Work Ethics" and incorporating into your curriculum.



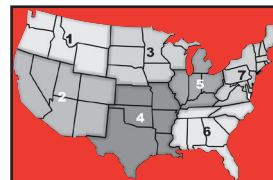
At this year's banquet, the association was honored to have **Patrick E. Quinn, Co-Chair/President of U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc. [Associate Member],** as our guest speaker.



Martin Garsee, President, presenting *plaque of appreciation* to **Phil Steinkamp** on his service as Board President/member.



Vincent Picciarelli, Foley Carrier Services, LLC [Associate Member], kicked off this year's conference with a "Reasonable Suspicion Training", followed later in the conference with the **Laws-Drugs/Alcohol** presentation.



Check your Region — Contact your Region Coordinator.

NAPFTDS FALL REGION CONFERENCES

Offering high-quality, workshops/seminars on national and regional issues for truck driving instructors and support staff. *Free of charge to attendees.* Allow about 1 1/2 days per conference. Please stay tuned for more information, make your plans early. **Check your Region below:**

Region #1-2

Date: October 27-28, 2011
Mountainland Applied Technology College, Lehi, UT
Contact: **Phillip Kresge, pkresge@mlatc.edu**

Regions #3 and #5 – TBD

Region #4

Date: November 10-11, 2011
Delmar College/Transportation Training Services
Corpus Christi, TX
Contact: **John Rojas, 316-698-2707** or vrojas@delmar.edu

Region #6

Date: October 6-7, 2011
Chattanooga State College, Hixson, TN
Sponsor: US Xpress Enterprises, Chattanooga TN
Contact: **Don Hunt, (423) 875-8448**
don.hunt@chattanoogaastate.edu and
Homer Paul, US Xpress Enterprises, Inc.,
hpaul@usxpress.com

Region #7

Date: September 29-30, 2011
College of Southern Maryland, LaPlata, MD
Contact: **Mary-Beth McCollum,**
marybethm@csmd.edu

Vendors are encouraged to exhibit products or services at Region Conferences. Cost to exhibit is \$150 at each Region.

Check our website for updates on regional meetings.

Greetings to everyone! We have just completed our 21st conference in beautiful Savannah Georgia, a beautiful, historic old town that was enjoyed by all.

The Board voted to hold the 2012 conference in Memphis, Tennessee. Memphis is centrally located to many of our members and in the past we have experienced great participation in that area of the country. I would like to thank Robert Behnke, Joanne Ivory, and Roy Williams, our conference committee members, for a job well done, as well as our technical assistant Crissie Moffet who keeps us on task.

Every conference brings both new and returning Board members; I would like to welcome the returning Board members, Tina Frindt – Treasurer; Roy Williams – Secretary; and Kreigh Spahr. New Board members are Wesley Smith – Midland College; Maury Tiehen – San Juan College; and Bruce Lane – North Georgia Technical College. Also returning to the Board were Homer Paul – US Xpress Enterprises Inc.; Keith Keller – J.J. Keller & Associates Inc.; and Vincent Picciarelli – Foley Career Services Inc.

Congratulations also go to Rob Behnke of Fox Valley Technical College, who was elected as Vice President. I am looking forward to working with Rob, as he brings years of experience to our organization, in addition to his industry knowledge and the ability to get things done. Welcome. I would like to personally thank Phil Steinkamp, our outgoing President, for a job well done. Phil, I

enjoyed working closely with you as Vice President for the last two years.

A special thanks go to our associate members that sponsored our conference – J.J. Keller & Associates, Schneider National, Cengage Learning Delmar, Doron Precision Systems, Foley Career Services LLC, ieLinks, Inc., Lanmarx Graphix Inc., Randall-Reilly Publishing, Ruan Truck & Trailer Sales, U.S. Xpress Enterprises, Inc. and Werner Enterprises. Their support made our conference in Savannah possible. Our speakers included many industry experts, who provided us with current and valuable information.

Challenges for the next year are state budget cuts, funding issues for our program and our students, with the demand for driver training increasing! We will need to be innovative, thinking “outside the box” to balance these demands.

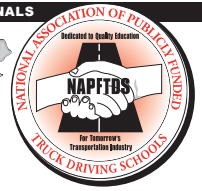
As always, the added benefit to the national conference is the networking with other schools and organizations in finding out how other programs deliver training and cope with these challenges. Each year I learn something new from other programs, having contact with other schools is one of the most valuable benefits that NAPFTDS has to offer.

With new regulations that will come into effect we all have a busy year ahead. I look forward to working with each of you over the next two years. Thanks for the opportunity to serve this organization.



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NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS



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Our 2nd day began with a “Getting it done” industry roundtable with **John Frey**, Werner Enterprises [Associate Member]; **Ken Smith**, Schneider National [Associate Member]; and **Robert McClanahan**, Director-Central Tech [Full Member]/Executive Director, NAPFTDS.