

editorial

SEI Offers New Format for Continuing Education Courses

By Roberto Leon and Donald Dusenberry



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ASCE has always been in the forefront of continuing education, offering opportunities for engineers to extend their knowledge and improve their practice. For many years, ASCE has offered courses, seminars, and conferences covering the spectrum of topics of interest to civil engineers. In addition, ASCE each year publishes journals, standards, manuals of practice, guidelines, and many other publications that contain state-of-the-art information on important engineering topics.

Even with an excellent record for providing useful information to the profession, SEI has recognized the need to expand its offerings. As more and more states require continuing education credits for renewals of professional licenses, engineers are searching for convenient and cost efficient ways to meet those requirements. Not everyone can attend ASCE conferences, travel long distances, or devote extended evenings and weekend days to acquire the credits they need to fulfill the continuing education demands of the state registration boards.

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In its continuing effort to serve the profession, SEI is developing a new structure to prepare and deliver courses that practicing engineers can use

to broaden their skills. To administer this program, the SEI Board of Governors has formed an Administrative Committee for Continuing Education (ACCE).

Over the past several months, the ACCE has developed formats that it hopes will provide new opportunities for practicing engineers to stay current with developing technology at reasonable cost and minimal inconvenience. Among these new formats are single-hour and multi-hour courses that are prepared by experts in relevant technology, for presentation at regional locations by skilled presenters who can rapidly adapt the provided presentation material into informative sessions. Local Activities Divisions can acquire the course material - including presentation materials and handouts - from SEI, and select qualified local lecturers to present the seminar. Courses therefore will be available at minimum cost, because it will not be necessary to compensate presenters to travel long distances for seminars.

Course materials will be carefully screened through a peer-review process, and reviewed periodically to verify that the content is current and relevant.

Practicing engineers will benefit by the availability of training in diverse topics through seminars that are presented locally at lunch hours, or in after-work evening or weekend sessions. Diversity in format allows for sequential sessions to cover more extensive topics in several meetings. Local chapters sponsor these sessions at minimum cost and at maximum convenience to the regional professionals.

SEI presently is soliciting proposals to develop courses under this new program. Experts in technology of direct interest to practicing engineers are encouraged to submit proposals to SEI. The requirements and format of the proposals can be found at www.seiinstitute.org. Developers will be compensated for their efforts. For additional information, contact Cathy Cardno at ccardno@asce.org.

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