

# LEARNING

# Curve

Volume 10, No. 1  
Spring 2009

NETWORKING THE FINEST EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

## Featured School

## Central Community College

Some people think of central Nebraska as the middle of nowhere — but geographically speaking, it is actually in the middle of it all. The Commercial Truck Driver-Training Program at Central Community College (CCC), located on the Hastings, NE campus is an ideal place to train for a career in the commercial truck driving industry.

The CCC truck driver-training program started in 1987 as a 12-week program with 4 trucks, 1 full-time instructor, and 1 part-time assistant. The program, which has been continuously evaluated and modified to meet changing needs in the industry, currently offers a 12-credit hour program that is based on DOT requirements for training and licensure of commercial truck drivers.

This 6-week program offers training in semi tractor-trailer combinations and includes 240 total hours of hands-on and classroom instruction. Hands-on is divided between a state-of-the-art driving simulator, closed driving range, and driving “over-the-road” under the supervision of a

licensed professional trainer. Students are also given instruction in vehicle maintenance, driver responsibilities, laws, rules, and regulations of the truck driving industry.

In addition to the 6-week Class A CDL course, the program offers other courses and workshops to meet various industry needs. This training includes Class B CDL Training, Agricultural CDL Training, and CDL Refresher Courses. Workshops such as Beginners CDL (A Guide to the Written Exams) and Hours of Service (Log Book Training) are held on a regular basis. Because the training simulator is located in a self-contained “mobile lab,” workshops that utilize the simulator for training can be done on campus or offered “on-site” to meet industry needs. Financing is available for those that qualify through a third-party financing company.

In February 2008, a new state-of-the-art truck-driving training facility — the Harlan Building — was completed. In addition to an office with the latest technological features, the training facility is also home to two “smart” classrooms. Each seats approximately 32 students and contains a computer, overhead projector, DVD player, and sound system. There is a fully functioning computer lab for students to access the Internet and complete online learning activities.

One of the best features of the new facility is the addition of climate-controlled truck bays that accommodate three tractor-trailers or nine tractors so demonstrations and pre-trip inspections can be performed inside if



Harlan Building

desired. The bays are also used for washing and general maintenance. Lastly, the facility boasts an observation tower that overlooks the entire 14-acre range where students practice range-maneuvering skills. Beyond the range — but in view of the tower is an additional 1.8-mile track where students can practice additional skills, such as shifting.

For the convenience of students, lodging and meals are available on campus for an additional fee. To complement the new training facility, a new residence hall — Franklin Hall — was completed in early 2008. The rooms are set up “motel style” — with wall-to-wall carpeting and individual heating and cooling units. A laundry room and cafeteria are other amenities.

Although all of these amenities are important, the greatest strength of the program is the knowledge and experience of CCC staff. In addition to the supervisor, the program has 3 full-time trainers, 2 part-time trainers, and an administrative assistant. All trainers are licensed State of Nebraska Third Party Examiners and have over 100 years of combined experience in the trucking industry.

*Continued* \_\_\_\_\_ *Page 2*

## In This Issue

- ◆ **Hours of Service Regulatory Update**
- ◆ **National Convention**
- ◆ **Region Conference Reports**
- ◆ **We Will Miss You, Dave!**
- ◆ **President's Message**

The program has strong relationships with many area carriers, and is continuously broadening its scope to ensure the best placement for students. Most companies the school works with offer tuition reimbursement to prospective employees with completion of an employment contract. Recruiters are invited to visit with students, and job fairs are held to bring employers together with students and/or potential employees.



Harlan Building

For more information, contact Michael Hall, Central Community College, P.O. Box 1024, Hastings, NE 68901, (402) 461-2550 or fax (402) 460-2189.

## Hours of Service Regulatory Update

By Robert McClanahan,  
Executive Director

I'm certain that by now you have heard the final ruling on Hours of Service has again been released. I think this is the third or fourth "final ruling." There was no change in the ruling from the previous ruling. The 11 hours of driving and the 14-hour rule remains. Also, the 34-hour restart is still in place. What I thought was interesting was the sleeper berth rule, especially for team operations. There was no change in that requirement. All things stay the same. Look for another court challenge soon.

There has also been a final ruling on the medical examiner's certificate requiring a copy of the Medical Certificate be presented to the licensing agency in order to get a CDL. Published Dec. 1, 2008, the ruling takes effect Jan. 30, 2009. States must comply by 2012. For information on the ruling go to

## RULES & RIGs

[www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov) and search for Docket No. 1997-2210. FMCSA has also proposed to establish a National Registry of Certified Medical Examiners. All examiners doing DOT physicals would be required to have training and maintain competence by periodic training and testing. You can go to Docket No. FMCSA-2008-0363 to view the proposed ruling.

The Hours of Service ruling may be an indication of what we may expect on the proposed entry-level training issue. There was virtually no change in what was proposed in the final rule. Therefore, can we expect no change in the proposed Entry Level requirement? I know that FMCSA is taking a long, hard look at the proposal. But I'm not sure that they will change much in the ruling as it was presented. Maybe some time next year we will find out? See you in Nashville.

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

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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:  
Robert McClanahan, Executive Director, NAPFTDS  
Phone: 918-770-6446

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW! 2009 NAPFTDS 19th National Convention

April 1st - 3rd, 2009  
Nashville, TN  
Radisson Hotel at Opryland  
2401 Music Valley Drive  
Nashville, TN 37214  
Phone # 615/889-0800  
800/333-3333

Make reservations: Mention **NAPFTDS 2009 Conference**. Reservation cut-off date is March 17, 2009.

Our room block will span the dates March 31, 2009 through April 4, 2009. There are a limited number of rooms on March 31 and April 4, but the hotel contract says they will honor the group price (\$99.00) three days prior to, and following the room block, **based on availability**. So reserve early.

### 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.

# Region Conference Reports

**What:** Region #3 Conference

**Where:** Des Moines Area Community College, Ankeny, IA

**When:** Oct 30-31, 2008

**Attendees:** Included **Bill Fath**, Alexandria Technical College; **Diane Denne-Morgan**, St Cloud Technical College; **John Hale**, SE Technical College; **John Carney**, Kirkwood Community College; **Dave Pfiffner**, Des Moines Area Community College; **Paul Foster**, Lake Superior College; **Rob Behnke**, Fox Valley Technical College; **Marty Kroenecke**, Hawkeye Community College; **Mark Huss**, Waukesha County Technical College; and **Robert McClanahan**, Central Technical College. Five carrier recruiting departments were also represented: **Ann Kissinger**, BTI Special Commodities; **Jack Ingham**, Hunt Transportation; **Rick Buchholz**, Werner Enterprises; **Darren DeGoey**, Transport America; and **Charlie Kelly**, US Xpress.

**Speakers/Presenters:** **Kim Linduska**, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Des Moines Area Community College provided opening remarks. Presenters included: **Don Egli**, Director of Safety and Security, Iowa Motor Truck Association; **George Warren**, BNSF Railway, who spoke on Operation Lifesaver; **Shirley McGuire**, Iowa Division Administrator with the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; **Mike Spalla**, IMTA 2008 Iowa Road Team; and Officers Cubit and Winters from the Iowa Highway Patrol Motor Vehicle Enforcement Program. In addition there were two exhibitor presentations: **Kenny Wehmas**, Ruan Truck Sales; and **Randy Hammer**, Doron Precision Systems.

**Notable:** We also held a Carrier Recruiting Roundtable with the carriers in attendance, and a tour of the DMACC Transportation Institute facility. The Region 3 conference was highly successful in that it provided a good forum for communication and networking with our member schools, carriers, and other entities such as the FMCSA, Iowa Highway Patrol, and our vendor supporters.

*Submitted by: Dave Pfiffner*

**What:** Region #6 Conference

**Where:** Moultrie Technical College, Moultrie, GA

**When:** Nov. 20-21, 2008

**Speakers/Presentations:** *Introductions and benefits of membership in NAPFTDS*, **Dr. Tina Anderson**, President, Moultrie Technical College; *Driver Qualifications and New Changes, Medical Waiver Process*, **Donald Harris**, Driver Specialist, U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration; *Through the Eyes of an LTL Carrier*, **Jack Tisdale**, Yellow Freight, Regional Safety Manager; *New Drug Testing Rules*, **Carl Hall**, Tift Regional Health Care /Work/Smart, Tifton, GA; *Obesity and Sleep Apnea*, **Deanna Sanders**, Tift Regional Health Care/Work/Smart; *New Technology in the Transportation Industry*, **Homer Paul**, US Xpress; *Why the Driver is in Control Today*, **Leo Pritchard**, **Eddie Watkins**, Crete Carrier Corp.; *Demonstration on the new 550 Truck Simulator*, **Michael Stricek**, Senior Vice President, Doron Precision Systems, Inc.

**Sponsors:** **Jim Tower**, Werner Enterprises; **Carl Bryant**, Kilm; **Kent Price**, Gearmaster; **Homer Paul**, US Xpress; **Leo Pritchard**, **Eddie Watkins**, Crete Carrier Corp.; **Michael Stricek**, Doron Precision Systems.

*Submitted by: Richard Tucker*



*A region #7 conference workshop.*

**What:** Region # 7 Conference

**Where:** The Community College of Baltimore County (CCBC) Hunt Valley, Maryland

**When:** Nov. 20-21, 2008

**Welcome and Introductions:** **Dr. Mark McCulloch**, Vice President of Instruction, CCBC; **Kent Smedley**, Interim Dean Workforce Development,



*Another region #7 conference workshop.*

CCBC; and **Wanda Johnson**, Assistant Coordinator, CCBC.

**Speakers/Presenters:** *Multi-Modal Homeland Security Initiatives*, **Mike Fischer** — Homeland Security Advisor; *State of the Industry*, **Anne Ferro** — President & CEO Maryland Motor Truck Association; *Maryland Transportation Authority Police-Commercial Vehicle Safety*, Inspector **John Strauss** — Motor Carrier Inspector; *Maryland Motor Vehicle Administration, CDL Changes* — **Douglas Blackstone** — Drivers Services.

**What was Discussed:** *Trucking Company "Application Procedures"* — **Robert Lovick** and **Ron Geyer**, U.S. Xpress Enterprises, **Tex Worcester** — B H Trucking; *Meet Region 7* — Individual Program Presentations Various Schools — Region 7 Members; *Cyber Security, Community Resilience* — **Tanya Jones** — Director of Professional Dev. CCBC; and *NAPFTDS Updates* — **Mary Beth McCollum** and Wanda Johnson.

**Attendees:** Carroll Community College, **Helen Jones**; Prince Georges Community College, **Tony Marra**; College of Southern Maryland, **Mary Beth McCollum** and **Mary Humbert**; Hagerstown Community College, **John Cavey**; Wor-Wic Community College, **Fred Marshall**; Cecil Community College, **Stacy Miller**; Chesapeake College, **Bob Faiella**, **Bill Gilbert**, and **Joyce Warrington**; Community College of Baltimore County, **Buffi Phillips**, and **Ray Gregg**.

*Submitted by: Wanda Johnson*

**National Convention**

April 1-3, 2009

— Radisson Hotel Opryland —

**Nashville, Tennessee**

# We Will Miss You, Dave!!!

David G. Keays, 61, of Menomonie, WI went home to be with his Lord on Saturday, Oct. 18, 2008, after a courageous battle with cancer.



David Gregory Keays was born May 21, 1947, in Minneapolis to Albin "Ben" and Shirley (Starbuck) Keays.

Dave grew up in Elk River, Minn., graduated from Elk River High School in 1965, and served in the U.S. Army for two years. He then drove for UPS for a number of years before attending Inver Hills Community College in Inver Grove Heights, Minn. He then transferred to UW-Stout in Menomonie and was subsequently hired by Chippewa Valley Technical College in 1977 to develop their truck-driving program. After teaching for 30 years at CVTC, Dave retired in the fall of 2007. He was well respected in the trucking industry, and was called upon to be an expert witness for cases involving tractor-trailer accidents.

In 1974, Dave met Joanne Satnik, who soon became his college sweet-

heart. They were married on Oct. 1, 1977, in West St. Paul, Minn.

Dave's passions in life were God, family, racing, and his work. He was an active member of Menomonie Alliance Church and was a board member of the National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools. He was also a member of various racing clubs, most recently the SCCA.

Dave is survived by his loving wife, Joanne of Menomonie; his children, Melissa (Todd) Herrick of Coon Rapids, Minn., Jeff Keays of Milwaukee, Amanda Keays (fiancé, Dave Stewart) of Streamwood, Ill., and Brenda O'Bryon (fiancé, Ben Vasey) of Menomonie; three grandchildren, Elijah and Noah Herrick and Gregory O'Bryon; a brother, Gary (Bonnie) Keays of Elk River, Minn.; and other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents. A memorial service was held at 4 p.m. Monday, Oct. 27, 2008, at Menomonie Alliance Church, with Pastor Jack Stimmel officiating.

## President's Message

Dave Terry



I hope all of you had a great holiday season. In the beginning of the New Year, as we make new goals and resolutions, we are faced with a new presidential administration and many changes to our government. We are still looking for Entry Level changes to be finalized. We *have* had final rulings made on the Medical Certificates, including how they will work. They start Jan. 30, 2009 and must be implemented by **January 2012**. We also have the final ruling on the Hours of Service that was being examined. The FMCSA has said there are no changes and all rules will stand as they are.

I am very pleased that all of our fall Regional Conferences were such a great success. 2008 was a great year, and I am looking forward to an even better year in 2009. I am also looking forward to our National Convention in

Nashville, Tennessee, **April 1st - 3rd**. Please make reservations ASAP to get your rooms reserved. I recognize that attending will be a challenge for many of you due to the budget cuts that have affected all of us nationwide.

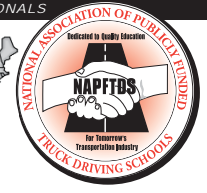
Finally, but certainly not lastly, I wish to extend my best wishes for a New Year with your programs, family, and friends. It seems like "stuff happens when we have something else planned."

Remember to have a positive attitude and good work ethic as you strive for excellence in your life, school, and family relationships. May the best of all this life has to offer be yours throughout 2009.

**March 27** is the deadline for the next issue of *Learning Curve*. Questions about article submissions should be directed to Robert McClanahan, 918-770-6446

# LEARNING Curve

NEWSLETTER FOR PROFESSIONALS



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