

LEARNING

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Fall 2011

Curve

NETWORKING THE FINEST EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES IN THE TRUCKING INDUSTRY

Featured School

Northampton Community College
@ Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania



For over 17 years Northampton Community College (NCC), Tobyhanna, Pennsylvania, has been changing the lives of students enrolled in their Driver Training Program (DTP). Students come from an array of backgrounds such as factories or cubicles with educational levels as varied as their work histories. Some students are looking for a change, but most have lost their job due to foreign competition or the economic recession. Many are barely keeping their heads above the financial floodwater and sometimes have been swept away. It is with all these issues and more that they come to learn to drive a truck at NCC.

The DTP guides prospective students to funding sources that can help students pay for their training. A few are self-pay, but most are funded through the Trade Act (TRA) or the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

Currently, the DTP is also able to provide funding for 35 applicants through an FMCSA grant. Considering the WIA funding in some counties has been depleted, the grant could not have come at a better time. Once student funding is in place, applicants complete their enrollment and are reserved a seat in an upcoming class. Prospective students are given a checklist of things, which are required to complete prior to starting class. The DOT physical, drug screen,

and obtaining a knowledge test authorization permit are the most important items needed to start training.

When students enter the Class A PTDI certified program, training begins in the classroom. Whether enrolled in a day or night class, students spend 80 hours learning tractor-trailer driving concepts. After 40 hours in the classroom students are sent to the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to take written tests.

Continued ————— Page 3

Welcome New Members!

Full Member (renewed)

**Region 9 School
of Applied Technology**
Mexico, Maine

Associate Members

1-800-Trucking
Oak Park, Michigan

Virage Simulation
Montpellier, Montreal Canada

In This Issue

- ♦ **FMCSA Amends CDL**
- ♦ **President's Message**
- ♦ **Board of Transport for Christ International Appointment**

2012 CONVENTION

(Watch for updates on www.napftds.org website)

This year's annual convention will be held in downtown Memphis, Tennessee. The convention committee is working diligently on a hotel and agenda. If anyone has any suggestions of what they would like to see on the agenda, please contact one of the convention members (Martin Garsee, Rob Behnke, Roy Williams, Joanne Ivory) or email Crissie Moffet at cmoffet@napftds.org. *Convention updates can be attained on our website.*

Special thanks to our ad sponsors in this issue of

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

FMCSA Amends CDL

By Robert McClanahan
Executive Director NAPFTDS

Effective July 8, 2011, as a final rule, FMCSA amends the commercial driver's license (CDL) knowledge and skills testing standards and establishes new minimum Federal standards for States to issue the commercial learner's permit (CLP). *However, states have until July 8, 2014 to comply with this ruling.*



The final rule and all background documents and material related to this rule may be viewed and copied at www.regulations.gov and then search for "FMCSA-2007-27659". Although the majority of the ruling will affect your state licensing agency for compliance, schools should be aware of issues that may affect your training programs. Skills testing could be the most affected at your school. Currently, schools and states have options on what test must be given in order to comply with your state's testing requirements. By the compliance date, states that do not follow the guidelines of AAMVA skills tests, must get approval from FMCSA to do testing other than the AAMVA standards.

Another issue that affects states and schools that have third-party

RULES & RIGs

testing examiners is a ruling that third party examiners at a school cannot test students at their school. This was *not* in the proposed ruling, but it was added into the final ruling.

After talking with many schools that have third party examiners, it was decided that the Association would join in filing a Request to Reconsider with FMCSA to change the wording or delete that part of the final rule. One unique result came from filing this joint request. For the first time in memory, all major associations involved in trucking and training came together to file a joint petition. The American Trucking Association, Truckload Carriers Association, Professional Truck Drivers Institute, Commercial Vehicle Training Association and NAPFTDS, *ALL* signed this petition.

To date, we do not know what the decision will be from the feds, but it is impressive that all five of us came together as one voice for all concerned about training future drivers.

Please review the final ruling by going to the website above. If you have questions or concerns please let me know.

NAPFTDS MEMBERSHIP PRE-APPLICATION

Organization/Company: _____

Contact Person: _____

Phone: _____

FAX: _____

E-Mail: _____

Mailing Address: _____

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:
Robert McClanahan, Executive Director
Cell: 918-770-6446 robertm@centraltech.edu

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.

Upon a passing score, students are issued a behind-the-wheel permit. Upon completion of the 80 hours in a classroom setting, students move to the range for 160 hours of training. The second portion of training includes pre-trip inspection, backing skills, (straight line, sight side and blind side parallel parking, alley dock, and serpentine) and driving on-road. Many times, the range and/or road are where the financial/personal issues collide with the stress of learning to drive a tractor-trailer. At this point, the DTP instructors face the biggest challenge in their ability to teach. This is where NCC earns a reputation for quality training.

The DTP also offers training for Class B, refresher, recreational vehicles, and contract training tailored to a carrier's specific needs. NCC graduates have gone to work for local and national companies as drivers, owner-operators, and support staff. There is nothing more rewarding than graduates telling stories of how NCC changed their lives. It is the reason NCC supports the DTP and why the college strives to be the best.

NCC has both provided and received help from members of the National Association of Publicly Funded Truck Driving Schools (NAPFTDS). NAPFTDS helps the college network with other schools, carriers, and industry representatives. The relationships built have been invaluable to the DTP as the college and the truck driver training industry adjust to new trends and/or regulations.

As NCC looks ahead, there are many new federal regulations that will change the way training is provided. NCC is grateful that NAPFTDS will be there to help the college meet future challenges.

For more information, contact Northampton Community College, 1900 Corporate Center Drive East, Tobyhanna, PA 18466, (570) 839-2778, or visit www.northampton.edu.

2011 Regional Meetings Sneak Peek!

(Watch for updates on www.napftds.org website)



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

Guest Speakers: Terry Smith, Utah Trucking Assoc; Brad Clayton, Utah Highway Patrol "Utah's Aggressive Driving Program"; Bob Kelleher, FDOT; Brent Newren, Utah Dept. of Workforce Services "How Utah is helping to get qualified students into the schools"; Vic Hockett, "Give them The Pickle," Going the extra mile in service and training; Steve Carwell, Dixie State College, "Chewing Them Up and Spitting Them Out," How to teach adults.

Regions #3 and #5

Date: October 25-26, 2011
Schneider National, Green Bay, Wisconsin
Contacts: **Rob Behnke** behnke@fvtc.edu
Kreigh Spahr kreigh.spahr@tri-c.edu
Karen Crabb crabbk@schneider.com

Cuyahoga Community College and Fox Valley Technical College will be hosting this year's combined regions #3 and #5 Regional Meeting. Schneider National of Green Bay will be the key sponsor for the conference. Please join us in Green Bay this fall as we further discuss FMCSA regulations, CDL testing processes, how are we going to fill the industry's driver shortage and much more. Come network with industry and educational leaders as we look to the future. *Hope to see you there!*

Region #4

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

Region 4 meeting will be held in Corpus Christi, Texas hosted by Delmar College/Transportation Training Services on November 10-11, 2011. Topics of interest will be "Carrier Safety Analysis and its Effects on Industry"; "Contract Training/

Industry/Partnerships"; "DOT Testing Regulations Update"; "Driver/Training and Newest Technology"; "Leadership Development"; Texas Department of Public Safety DOT Division"; "Port of Corpus Christi - Trucking Opportunities & Growth" and will close with a tour of the Port of Corpus Christi. The expectation of attendance is high for local carriers and partners in education as well as members. Watch for updates on www.napftds.org as well as an email blast.

Region #6

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

This will be the event of the year ... all members invited. Expect an email blast with a registration as well as any updates on the website, www.napftds.org.

Region #7

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

Vickie Grow will be back with more information on *Teaching the Adult Learner*. New Topic: *Multi-Generational Training / The Big Shift*. Ms. Grow has been well received with her training Topics of Teaching the Adult Learner. A certificate will be given to each participant. We hope to have speakers from Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, American Trucking Association and Maryland Motor Truck Association, national carriers and local company representation. We will visit a local restaurant for traditional southern Maryland seafood! A treat that you can't miss! - AGENDA to come out soon!!

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, from the warm, dry state of Texas. Many of us work in 12-month programs and others have the summers off, with either schedule we are getting ready for a new school year. The one thing that we all share in common is that our new budgets are around the corner – with most of us starting a new year in September.

Most areas of our country have experienced cuts in education. How all of this affects our department budgets in some cases remains to be seen. Most of us will be asked to do more with less. In a program such as truck driver training which is labor intensive compared to other college programs, cuts seem to hit us harder than others. For those of us that have seen the cycle of good and bad times realize that our creativity and experience will be tested in the next couple of years.

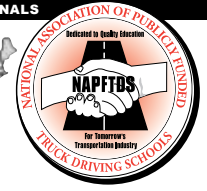
The need for drivers is picking up, but funding for students still remains weak or non-existence in most parts of the country. The increased rules and regulations will eventually lead to less current drivers in the market and potential students not being qualified to become entry-level truck drivers. We will be challenged to meet the needs for

companies that hire from each of us. It is important for us to stay focused on our challenges/mission to serve our students.

Many times our jobs consist of being a counselor, instructor, mentor and other roles with our students as they are being trained. Our staff will continue to be able to meet the needs of students so they are successful in their new career. This is life changing for many students and each of us enjoys the input we have on their journey to success.

In this issue, you will see information on upcoming regional meetings – let me encourage each of you to make a concerted effort to attend the meeting in your area. Each region strives hard to bring you the most relative information with informative speakers to keep us up-to-date on rules, regulations and opportunities that exist in training today's entry-level drivers/students.

Special thanks to associate members that support our organization, without them we could not afford to have these meetings, which are great opportunities for each of us to network, share and grow professionally.



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Board of Transport for Christ International Appointment

The Association would like to CONGRATULATE Kreigh Spahr, Program Manager, Cuyahoga Community College Truck Driving Academy/ Certified Logistics Training, Euclid, Ohio, who has been affirmed as the incoming Chairman of the Board for Transport for Christ International. Kreigh's official duties began at the August 11, 2011 meeting.

This is Transport for Christ International's 60th year of service to drivers and the trucking and travel industries. This ministry serves the United States, Canada, Russia, Africa and others around the world through its outreach, chapels and web presence.



The ministry works to fill the spiritual needs of drivers, truck stop employees, and travelers.

Presently the ministry is also focusing a concerted effort on Driver Wellness and

Human Trafficking; working with Chapter 61 Ministries and others to raise awareness and provide hope and help to those affected.

This is quite an honor and the association wishes to congratulate Kreigh on this achievement.