

## **Continuing Professional Education for CETs**

Continuing professional education (CPE), as a part of continuing professional development, has been required for CET renewal from the beginning of the credential. For a short period after the credential was integrated into the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (BCSP), however, there was a period of confusion resulting from the conversion of the former NESHTA point system into the new BCSP re-certification point system. This was resolved, and documentation now properly reflects the requirement for thirty (30) hours of CPE over each five year renewal period.

Acquiring CPE in adult education is not easy these days, particularly for those unable to attend annual conferences where points can be accumulated. In the past, CETs got most or all of them by attending a few NESHTA conferences. In the new business environment, which often provides few CPE benefits for employees, points are much harder to get.

For those that can manage to attend the large national conferences (ASSE, AIHA, AHMP, etc.) there usually are a few sessions that cover some aspect of training, adult education or related professional development activities. Check the programs carefully to identify sessions that can be used, and your record of attendance. Even then, it may still be difficult to accumulate all of the points needed.

### ***Renewing After 2015?***

For NESHTA members and others who have a few years before renewal, there should be no problem in earning the point you need. NESHTA is working toward developing online courses and webinars specifically for CET professional development as well as basic and advanced skills development. Because we must insist on the highest standards for our own courses, this is a long and expensive process. Webinars, usually limited to about two hours each, will launch in the fall of 2015, in time for CETs to earn about 4 hours credit before the end of December. Other courses and webinars will be added incrementally over the next couple of years. Depending on when you are due for renewal, these could be your best bet over the longer term.

### ***Need Lots of Points Before the End of Year?***

For those who need the points by this December (and possibly the next year, to be on the safe side), by the end of the summer – hopefully sooner – NESHTA will be finalizing a partnership with the University of California, San Diego Extension, to provide a modest discount (10%) for NESHTA members to enroll in their robust roster of adult education online courses. UCSD's pricing for these courses is exceptionally reasonable, and offers either college credit or CEUs. They offer a range of 1, 2 and 3 credit courses equivalent to the same number of CEUs/BCSP points. So, if you need points fast, UCSD probably is your best bet. For NESHTA members who wish to take advantage of the planned NESHTA discount, we will be announcing the partnership as soon as it is completed.

Remember, though, the UCSD options are ACTUAL college courses! This means completing assignments, if you expect to earn the credits. That is, after all, the point of continuing education! UCSD operates on the quarter system, so courses have starting and completion times according to their college summer, fall, winter and spring quarters. Course work must be completed within the quarter.

On the positive side for most, on the other hand, all of the course are NOT blended courses with required “sit-in” times. All of the work is done independently through online study, textbook materials, email, discussion groups, and phone contact with the instructor during posted office hours.

You can view the UCSD courses at:

<http://extension.ucsd.edu/online/index.cfm?vAction=onlineDetail&vStudyAreaID=8&#Teaching Adult Learners>