

EDUCATION CORNER

(September 2011)



“Most people are mirrors, reflecting the moods and emotions of the times; few are windows, bringing light to bear on the dark corners where troubles fester. The whole purpose of education is to turn mirrors into windows”. -Sydney J. Harris, journalist and author (1917-1986)

ASQ Certification

I continue to receive a large volume of e-mail concerning preparing for a certification exam and the resources available. To ensure everyone gets a chance to see the opportunities available for certification training, we have decided to repeat the education corner from the last newsletter.

In this column, I will provide you with answers to the most often asked questions. The first of these is who provides training and where can I go to find out when and where this training is offered. The first source to consider for certification training is ASQ National. ASQ National lists all of their training courses and schedules on their ASQ Learning Institute web site:

<http://www.asq.org/learninginstitute/> or simply go to the ASQ web site and navigate to the Learning Institute. This

site not only allows you to view and select course to take it also allows you to track your training history and plan your training. ASQ offers classroom, webinars and individual courses that you can take to study for a certification exam. The downside to an ASQ National course is the expense. There are other organizations that teach certification courses. We are unable to comment on these, as we do not know the quality of their courses. The next resource is local ASQ sections such as Section 0511. In the past, we have taught CQA, CSQE and CMQ/OE. We currently only offer the CQA course as our instructors in the other courses are unable to devote time to teach the course. We will send an e-mail out announcing the start of a CQA course approximately one month in advance. We will also post it to our web page. Other sections also offer courses. The nearest sections are Section 0509 (Washington DC <http://www.asq509.org/>) and Section 502 (Baltimore <http://www.asqbaltimore.org/>). Finally, you can prepare for the exam by individual study. If you plan to do that we recommend that you use the Quality Council of Indiana primers and study material (<http://www.qualitycouncil.com/>). I used the CQI primers to prepare for the Six Sigma Green Belt exam and passed on the first try. Finally, the only way to pass a certification exam is through long hard hours of preparation no matter what method you choose.

Quality Education

While ASQ certifications are a great way to gain expertise and formal recognition,

there are other venues that provide education in quality subjects. We recommend you check out the local institutions of higher learning. Almost all of them offer degrees in management with instruction on quality included in the courses offered. Others offer degrees in software engineering, manufacturing, etc. that closely align with the ASQ certification categories. Students can take individual courses or complete a degree program to gain more knowledge of the subject area and quality principles. Check out the web sites of the local colleges and universities to discover how they can help you become more professional.

VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT:

Education Volunteer: – In the past, the Section 0511 Education Chair has been concerned with providing training for section members who are trying to prepare for a certification exam. The section would like to expand our education role by moving into the Quality Education arena. We are looking for people who work in the Education field (any level, public/private, teacher or administrator) who would like to assist the section in providing liaison to local schools, setting up and running an Education Special Interest Group, etc. Qualified candidates should have a certification in one of the following areas: CMQ/OE, Quality Auditor, Six Sigma Black Belt, or Quality Improvement Associate. The level of participation is entirely voluntary. As always, participation as a committee member earns recertification points. Please contact the Education chair at Education12@asq0511.org

Certification Exam Preparation

Course Instructors: The section is looking to expand its certification exam preparation course selection. If you would like to be a lead instructor for a new offering (CSSBB, CSQE, CQE, etc) or be an assistant instructor in an existing offering, please contact the education chair at Education12@asq0511.org Instructor qualifications include a certification in the BOK you desire to instruct, several years of on the job experience in that field, and experience as an instructor/teacher. Instructors receive recertification units for teaching as well as a small stipend.

Venues for Certification Course:

Section 0511 is constantly looking for a classroom facility to conduct our Certification Preparation Courses in. If you are planning to take one of our courses and have a facility that you provide for the course, please contact the specific instructor or the education chair at Education12@asq0511.org

ASQ Learning Institute:

If you have not had an opportunity to view what the Learning Institute has to offer, below is a page that is copied from the ASQ web site that shows you what the Institute has to offer:

My Learning

It's all about you. Create your learning plan. Track your progress. Make adjustments. You can do it all from right here.

- **Track your training history.** Here's your entire history of learning events - including courses taken

- outside of the Learning Institute.
- **Work on your learning plan.** Plan your training over an extended period of time. Includes scheduled courses, courses in progress, and future courses you would like to take.
 - **Plan your quality career.** Identify gaps in your knowledge and choose the appropriate training to get from where you are to where you want to be.

Add CEUs you've earned outside of the Learning Institute. Include additional CEUs and classes you've taken outside of the Learning Institute to create your comprehensive learning profile.

Check out what the Learning Institute has to offer you at:
<http://www.asq.org/learninginstitute/>

Certified Quality ASQ Auditor Certification Preparation Course Announcement

- **Course Description**—The Certified Quality Auditor (CQA) is a professional who understands the standards and principles of auditing and the auditing techniques of examining, questioning, evaluating, and reporting to determine a quality system's adequacy and deficiencies. The American Society for Quality Section 0511 of Northern Virginia will present a training course to prepare students to take the national CQA examination held December 3, 2011. More information about the CQA, benefits of certification

requirements, application form, test dates, and the examination is provided at the website
<http://www.asq.org/certification/quality-auditor/index.html>

- **Course Schedule and Location**—5-weekend accelerated course. This class will meet for 7 classroom hours, 9 AM to 4 PM, each Saturday from October 22 through November 19 (we will finish before Thanksgiving weekend). We plan to hold sessions in the Telos Corporation building at 19886 Ashburn Road, Ashburn VA 20147. You must be a US citizen to meet the host facility's security requirements, and comply with building security requirements while present for the course.