With any type of change, there is always some trepidation whether the change will be successful. While we at NEIEP were confident that this semester format would be a positive change for the Program, it was reasonable for us to reserve judgment until tangible evidence was at hand. We’re happy to report that both reactions from individuals across the country as well as the data indicate a broad success for this new form of curriculum delivery. Perhaps the most important measure of success is the pass/fail ratio of students enrolled in NEIEP courses: 88.8% passed the final exam.

Not only do the numbers support the success of the semester format, but we’re also hearing good things from those who teach and learn. Overall responses have been positive. Apprentices who have been through at least one of the four original “Year” formats have given high marks to the semester program.

Across the country we have heard that apprentices were particularly pleased to learn that two semesters would mean one final exam per semester. Moreover, knowing that they would have flexibility to make up a failed semester during another semester provided some relief, whereas in the past they had to repeat the entire year in which they failed in order to receive credit.

Apprentices were impressed with their new school materials, and having each unit divided by tabs in a three-ring binder. They also liked how the binder format gives them the ability to add any changes that NEIEP makes to a section by inserting or replacing pages where necessary. Likewise, instructors also liked the new format because they could add instructional notes easily.

Committees note that the semester format has kept them more focused on student issues like attendance and unit exams. As a result, they feel more capable of keeping students on track for successful completion of studies.

The semester change has helped on a logistic level. With class materials shipped at the beginning of each semester instead of divided throughout the entire school year, individuals from NEIEP’s Warehouse to the AreaCoordinator have a reduced burden to maintain these shipments. This also means that modules do not require storage space at a local since apprentices receive all of their books on the night of orientation.

One last comment that seems to be universal—everyone enjoyed the time off during the Christmas and New Year holidays. Students, instructors, and committee members have all commented that this time has allowed them the ability to regroup and start the next semester fresh and ready to go.

As we continue to strive to improve your educational program, we welcome any feedback that will assist us in this endeavor. Please send comments and questions to support@neiep.org.
HIGHLIGHTS AND REMINDERS FROM THE SPRING CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE 2010/2011 SCHOOL SEASON

- Classes commenced the week of January 24, 2011, WEEK 1. The semester calendar is based on 18 weeks of curriculum instruction, which includes two built-in “buffer” weeks to accommodate classes missed due to severe weather or other unanticipated circumstances.

- The week of February 7, 2011, WEEK 3, was the cut-off week for student enrollment. At this time, all students should be present in class and class rosters should list all registered students.

- Please review rosters and report any student who is present in class, but is not on your class roster, to your JAC Chairman, Co-Chairman or Area Coordinator to ensure the student receives credit for attending class. Additionally, please report any students who are on your roster but are not attending your class. Chairmen, Co-Chairmen and Area Coordinators are asked to ensure that any changes or corrections to class rosters or enrollment statuses are reported to NEIEP Support as soon as possible.

- Eligible make-up classes will take place during calendar WEEKS 13 and 17. Classes must be pre-approved by NEIEP prior to being held. A maximum of two (2) make-up dates per class is allowed with a minimum of three (3) eligible students.

- Final Examinations commence the week of May 23, 2011, WEEK 18. Shipments of final exams will take place prior to WEEK 18.

- NOTE: Final exams should not be scheduled prior to WEEK 18. The maximum number of weekly classes (RC classes) is 18 and five (5) for monthly classes (DL classes), which includes time allotted for Final Exam administration. These numbers cannot be exceeded.

Continuing Education: Course Availability Update

Continuing Education classes are not dependent on the Semester calendar, which means they can be held throughout the year; however, the Class Builder will be unavailable from June 27-July 4 to accommodate system updates for the start of the 2011/2012 school season. During that week, no classes can take place.

Pre-requisites for apprentice participation in CE classes have been modified. Now, apprentices can participate in CE courses if they have successfully covered the curriculum in a required course. If you are interested in building a CE class, contact your JAC Chairman, Co-Chairman or Area Coordinator.
WANTED: LIFT MAGAZINE CONTRIBUTORS

LIFT is NEIEP’s annual publication on educational issues for the elevator industry. Our contributors provide experienced insight and thorough research to provide our readers with real-world techniques and procedures that they can apply to situations on the job.

We are looking for individuals who want to assist us in this effort of providing interesting educational content that extends beyond our standard textbooks. Previous formal writing experience is not required. Elevator Constructors of all experience backgrounds are welcome.

If you’re interested in becoming part of the team of compensated LIFT contributors, please submit your resume to Jon Henson at jhenson@neiep.org or call (508) 699-2200 ext. 6115.
NEIEP is regularly updating material as well as teaching aids for the benefit of our instructors and students.

One of the most valuable teaching aids is the Laptop Computer. Since the implementation of this tool, we have been able to streamline the delivery of NEIEP curriculum dramatically. This compact device has replaced the bulky TV monitors, VCRs, and overhead projectors. It has also given us the opportunity to see firsthand the attendance, missing unit exams as well as industry hours and other valuable information, which should be reviewed on a regular basis.

To maintain up-to-date hardware and software, NEIEP is requesting instructors who are not currently teaching to turn in laptops to their Area Coordinator or the NEIEP Warehouse with all accessories included.

For more information, contact Rob at warehouse@neiep.org or call (508) 699-2200 ext. 6130.