Most of our readers are familiar with NEIEP’s 4-Stop Hydraulic Controller Lab (HCL), the famous suitcase-sized training tool that has offered generations of NEIEP students the opportunity to learn about troubleshooting elevators in a safe environment. The HCL has a solid reputation with instructors and students alike. With a little inspiration, students using the suitcase HCL can envision themselves identifying and fixing faults on a controller in a machine room as they receive guidance from their instructors in the NEIEP classroom.

Now, with the Virtual HCL, instructors and students are no longer limited to simply imagining themselves troubleshooting an elevator in a real-world setting. Similar to the video game environment that many apprentices are accustomed to, the Virtual HCL is an immersive 3D experience in which students must make choices to properly troubleshoot equipment based on the context that is presented to them in the simulation.

The Virtual HCL offers a three-dimensional depiction of a 4-stop elevator in a residential setting. Students are greeted by a virtual character who will explain the problem they are encountering with the elevator in laymen’s terms, and it is up to the student to troubleshoot and resolve the issue. Students are able to move freely throughout the virtual environment, and they are able to remove wires and use a meter as they would in the real world.

Training in the Age of ‘Serious Games’

The effort to bring the HCL experience into a virtual environment is part of the larger trend of gamification in the world of training. Gamification refers to the process of applying gaming designs and concepts to learning or training scenarios in order to make them more engaging and entertaining for the learner. The increased popularity and usage of gaming techniques for training can be attributed to the spirit of competition; it not only makes learning more enjoyable, but it also increases retention and ensures a quick and efficient student acquisition of competency toward expertise.

A Release in Three Phases

NEIEP’s Virtual HCL will be introduced in three phases. The first is a classroom procedure for finding the fault, the new Virtual HCL experience provides over 300 fault scenarios, all presented in the simulated work environment that models real world situations the students may one day encounter.
version that instructors can use right away with their students as part of their course activities. This version will be released during this spring semester in 2016. The initial release is meant to support classrooms that have the physical “suitcase” labs on location. In the near future, classrooms may use only this virtual lab to teach pertinent sections of the semester 700 curriculum. Instructors teaching 700 this spring semester will be able to open up this first version and give students specific faults to troubleshoot as a class, in small groups, or individually at their discretion.

The second phase of the Virtual HCL release will be a stand-alone continuing education (CE) course that students can take at home. The full course version starts off with an introduction that shows students how to read the associated prints and then walks them through the troubleshooting method by breaking the prints down into sections. Students are then presented with fault scenarios related to the sections they’ve just studied.

The final phase of this lab release is a version to be used as part of the semester 700 practical assessment toward qualifying for the mechanic exam. Students in the course will be given an opportunity during their semester enrollment to work with the virtual lab to prepare for the practical, which will present them with a given set of fault scenarios that they will troubleshoot and solve successfully.

NEIEP has long been proud of the training provided to our students who encounter the HCL in their classrooms. This new version for the 21st century builds on a time-tested tool by making it even more engaging, context-driven, and challenging for our membership. With an expanded list of fault scenarios and a fully realized work environment at their fingertips, instructors and students alike should find much to explore, and even more to learn, in this virtual world.

At the end of 2015 the American Heart Association released new research on how to perform CPR. This research concluded that the number of chest compressions and the rate at which the chest was compressed needed to be adjusted slightly for maximum benefit to the victim. The AHA released an online course meant to inform instructors on how to teach with these changes, and walk them through teaching the updated material. NEIEP has led an aggressive campaign to have all of our instructors complete this update and be as prepared as possible to teach this valuable course.
Do you have an eye for photography? Would you like to use your skills to benefit IUEC apprentices?

NEIEP is looking for images of elevator equipment and jobsites to use as part of our curriculum update project for semester 100. You don’t need to be a professional photographer to get a great shot, but all photos should be clear. And because the images will be used in our apprenticeship curriculum, it’s especially important that the equipment/jobsite is in compliance with OSHA requirements, and that any persons in the photos are wearing the proper PPE (such as hardhats or eye protection where needed). NEIEP can work with most file formats, but we prefer .jpeg, .tiff, .png or .bmp file types with the highest resolution your camera allows. Please use a flash if you are in a low light location.

For details on specific images we need, please contact Maggie Cleveland at mcleveland@neiep.org

NEIEP has had a message system on our website for some time now, known as the “News Bulletin.” Recently the IT department released a new version of the system which will now be accessible to Area Coordinators as well as NEIEP Administrators.

Area Coordinators will now be able to broadcast messages to specific groups of people in specific locals on the dashboard page of the NEIEP website. Those groups are:

- Business Individuals (Business Agent, Business Manager, Business Representative, etc.)
- Committee Members (All)
- Committee Members (Chair / Co Chair only)
- Instructors
- Local Administrators
- Students

In order to see a message, an individual has to be logged in. Area Coordinators cannot send messages to specific individuals, only groups. This will allow for better channels of communication and better overall connectivity within the program. Check the News Bulletin often to see if there are helpful messages for you from the NEIEP Administration or the Area Coordinators.

**MESSAGES FORM**

Use this form to send out messages to individuals within your local. These messages will appear on the “news” section of the website on the Dashboard page.

If you have any questions please contact NEIEP Support by email at: support@neiep.org or by phone at: 800-228-8220.
NEIEP has recently released a new College Partnership video on our YouTube channel. The video features NEIEP’s Head of Development, Lester White, who completed a Bachelor’s degree through Goddard. Outlined in the video are the many benefits of a college education, the ways in which Goddard can benefit mechanics especially, the atmosphere on and off campus, and the special “magic” of completing a degree at Goddard.

To watch the video and see for yourself how beneficial a college degree can be, follow this link to the NEIEP YouTube channel, or scan the QR code to be taken immediately to the page.

https://youtu.be/1rDrkdNmWP0

To learn more about NEIEP’s other college partnerships, visit our College Transfers page at neiep.org.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS-SPRING SEMESTER

WEEK 10 (April 4-April 9) This week classroom rosters and class participation are reviewed. Students that have zero participation, to date, are dropped from class and reported to JAC for follow up.

WEEK 13 (April 25-April 30) & WEEK 17 (May 23- May 28)-MAKE-UP Classes

These weeks are reserved for Make-up classes. Please submit class for approval prior to the date of the class. A minimum of 2 students who need a make-up class have to be present in order for the class to be held. If less, the class cannot be funded.

MISSING REQUIREMENTS REPORT: JAC is encouraged to routinely check the Missing Requirements Report (MRR) to monitor students’ progress. Any discrepancies, missed unit exams or attendance issues should be corrected with NEIEP prior to the next scheduled class.

WEEK 18 (May 31-June 4) FINAL EXAMS COMMENCE

Shipment dates for final exams will be posted when defined.

BUFFER WEEKS (June 6-June 18) Final weeks of the semester are reserved for any class that was forced to be rescheduled due to weather or a holiday. All unit exams, attendance, final exams or record discrepancies must be resolved no later than June 24. June 24 is the closing date for the Semester. Any issue not resolved on or before this date is recommended to go before the JAC.