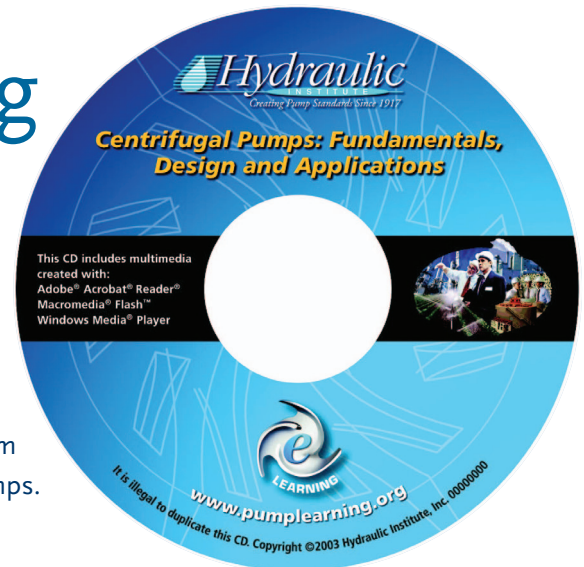




Welcome to e-learning

In today's hectic workplace, new engineers can find it quite a challenge to learn the essentials about pumps and pumping systems. Seasoned colleagues have scant opportunity to pass on hard-earned skills whilst there is often little opportunity to take time out to attend formal classroom lessons. The Hydraulic Institute (HI) is stepping into this void and has just launched an e-learning program. Authored by leading industry and educational experts, this program provides a wealth of information about the safe and efficient use pumps.



Some months ago, Pump Engineer had the pleasure of visiting the Hydraulic Institute (HI) in Parsippany, New Jersey. At that time, Executive Director Mr Robert Asdal commented that it is common knowledge that the number of traditional rotating equipment engineers is gradually declining. It is inevitable, therefore, that end users will lose expertise and that many new engineers will not have the opportunity to learn about pumps from elder colleagues. This phenomenon presents both a challenge and an opportunity for HI, believes Mr Asdal. "HI is ideally placed to step into the ensuing educational and resource void. We can help plant engineers understand how to design, install and operate pumping systems efficiently."

To meet this need, HI is promoting a new initiative with the launch of its web-based e-learning program. Mr. Asdal: "Today's challenging economy is forcing many organizations to use innovative techniques when it comes to training

Check out HI's e-learning course

Pump Engineer is pleased to be able to bring you sample data from the HI's e-learning program. Starting this issue (see page 53), we will bring a selection of slides from each of the six course modules.

Readers interested in further details are invited to visit www.pumplearning.org where they can experience a free demonstration course of "How To Learn" on-line.

and educating their employees. For many, the concept of e-learning is proving a viable option, and with good reason. Our program is designed to appeal to both pump manufacturers and users. The series comprises six modules and is available both on-line and on CD. These modules constitute a tremendous training opportunity, covering pump fundamentals, design, and applications. Moreover, all this knowledge is available when and where the engineer needs it, and all at a very reasonable cost."

Mr Asdal further commented that this e-learning project was only made possible thanks to the twenty sponsoring HI members. Mr. Asdal: "The e-learning program represents a very thorough body of knowledge that we would be pleased to extend. After all, the pump business is not known for standing still! To make things even more attractive for end-user companies discounts are available for multi-user packages."

ENGAGING AND INTERACTIVE

Further discussing just why e-learning is making a vast impact in the field of continuing education, Mr. Asdal explained some of the benefits of the HI's program. "Firstly, it is easily accessible, and can be accessed from any computer, from anywhere in the world, by web browsing software on popular platforms. That makes the system flexible and convenient. Users can progress at their own pace, at any time of the day, in the location of their choice." The program is also very cost-effective, he



Mr Asdal, Executive Director of the Hydraulic Institute: "The six e-learning modules constitute a tremendous training opportunity, covering pump fundamentals, design, and applications."

claimed, as there are no travel costs associated with bringing employees together to one location for instruction. Additional advantages include consistency and content topicality. "The centralized nature of the web ensures that course content delivery is standardized for all users who take the course. Every participant is receiving the same lesson, presented in the same way. Further, the program can easily be kept current and up-to-date. Any changes or updates to program content can be made in one location and immediately communicated to any and all users worldwide." Finally, Mr. Asdal emphasized that the course had been made an engaging and interactive as possible. "Depending on the nature of the coursework, teaching via multimedia technology can be very effective. Through animation, vivid illustration and other special effects, program concepts can be conveyed in ways not possible in conventional workshop settings." ●