

UEM employees complete and earn certifications in their respective fields

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Four UEM staff members have recently completed programs or have earned certifications and licenses in their respective fields. Their achievements highlight our mission of continuing to provide the highest quality and reliable utility services to the university.



Ken Bonin, contract and purchasing manager, is the first to complete our Managers and Supervisors Training Program. The training program was rolled out in June 2008 and is designed to help those in supervisory roles stay up to date on issues in human resources, and on department specific ways regarding policies and procedures within UEM.

Juan Ontiveros, executive director of UEM, said the department has always placed a high priority on training. This was further emphasized when the investment was made to create the Employee Training and Certification Program. This program has since been expanded to include managers and supervisors. The fact that Ken jumped out and quickly completed the program is what Ken is all about. He is efficient, professional, and organized

and is known for quickly delivering with all procurements regardless of how essential or critical they are to the UEM department. Ken knows how to lead by example.

Ryan Reid, assistant manager of the power plant division, earned the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED-AP certification for his expertise in energy efficient design and environmental quality. Ryan joined us in June 2008 and is the first LEED-AP certified professional in our department.



"Ryan is quickly becoming the in-house expert in sustainability and LEED issues. Normally these issues reside in building renovation and new construction, but an important piece is how our energy plants and distribution systems are classified in the LEED certification process. His work with an International District Energy Association committee to help interface with the United States Green Building Council that directs the LEED process is important so that systems like ours can be given the environmental benefit credit that is deserved," said Ontiveros.



Mike Manoucheri, maintenance operations manager, and John Somdecerrff, assistant manager of the control systems section in the power plant division, both earned their Texas Professional Engineers Licenses in January and May. UEM now employs eight professional engineers.

"We were fortunate to have Mike join our department with 20+ years of experience in the chemical processing industry running power systems like ours. It is not so easy for 'more

experienced' individuals like him to get a P.E. license so the fact that he has accomplished this just adds to the quality and technical expertise that he exemplifies," said Ontiveros.

"John has been doing a great job in his work in the Instrumentation and Controls Section. John covers a wide range of extremely technical tasks in helping to manage the complex digital controls and instrumentation systems in the Power Plant and Chilling Stations. John came to us with great work experience so obtaining a P.E. license only adds more credibility to the professionalism of his work and that of the department. Obtaining a P.E. license is no small task since it requires passing a two 8 hour intensive written exam," Ontiveros added.