



Career College of Northern Nevada HVACR Dept. Chair Menard Lontoc

When/why did Career College of Northern Nevada become a Member of RSES? In February 2011; it was only natural to become associated with an established organization like RSES. RSES has been a valuable and reliable resource to the industry for many years. We are always looking for ways to advocate the program and provide training opportunities for our students and faculty. Access to industry trends, training resources, news and events, are important for student training and faculty development.

How does the college help with training through RSES, and why is this important? We highly encourage students to join RSES and explain the benefits of individual membership. Student membership benefits are great, especially considering the modest students benefit from corporate membership by having copies of RSES Journal available in the school's library. A great feature of the magazine is the troubleshooting section where real service calls are presented to the reader. Students are excited and challenged when exposed to these simulated problems. When students are exposed to industry publications that they can relate to, the training that we provide is reinforced. They develop confidence and achieve a broader perspective on their training.

For employees, RSES helps us with our Faculty Improvement Plan. Faculty is required to attend continuing education courses. As the department chair, I was able to attend the HVACR Instructor's Workshop in March 2011, where I benefited from the instruction, direction and networking opportunities available.

Other benefits include access to SAM chapters, which provide practical technical assistance that may not be available in textbooks.

TECH TIPS

Ensuring leak-proof hookups

Deep vacuums have unique properties. Applying a deep vacuum to HVACR equipment requires a leak-proof design not only of the manifold, but of all components involved.

Charging and testing hoses are designed to handle pressure. When preparing connecting lines only, soft copper tubing, pure rubber or flexible metal hose are absolutely vacuum-tight. However, even with the advanced technology of today's hoses, permeation through the hose compound still occurs. When checking pressure rise, the atmosphere will permeate to the lower pressure in the hoses and the micron reading will slowly rise.

Another source of leakage is the coupler. The gasket seal in a charging hose requires frequent attention and replacement to keep its leak rate tolerable. O-ring couplers have a small rubber ring that forms around irregularities in the flare fitting. When the flare is screwed down, a metal-to-metal seal is created and the O-ring forms around the flare to produce a positive seal.

Source: JB Industries Inc.'s, Leak Proof Hook Up Kit, www.jbind.com.

What services does the college provide? The college provides high quality education to students with varying levels of academic abilities, and is committed to providing its students with the skills and technical knowledge needed for initial employment in entry-level positions. Recognizing that many graduates will want to advance to management and executive positions, the college offers its students the opportunity to develop self-confidence, leadership abilities and a sense of responsibility. The students maximize their potential to obtain a good job, stable life and respect.

Continued research of the employment opportunities and linkages with the local employment community allows us to provide the most current skill training. To determine the best skills to teach our students, we rely on the recommendations made by special "Employer Advisory Boards." Under their direction, the faculty and administrators of the College develop a curriculum that teaches the skills these employers are looking for. The college then tests graduates in these skill areas and guarantees those skills to the employer.

Why is education important for today's technicians?

The industry is facing advances in technology due to energy-efficient demands. State laws and other jurisdictions are even mandating increased efficiency standards. Since the industry is rapidly advancing, technicians and businesses installing/servicing these systems must also stay current to keep up with industry demands. The current push for certified technicians will set current technicians apart and assist employers in hiring qualified entry-level technicians. There are so many facets and specialized fields within the industry. These fields can potentially be lucrative and stable if a technician can prove their worth. Without a solid educational foundation, staying relevant and valuable will be a challenge.

Know a person, company or group making a difference in the HVACR industry? Send their name, contact info and a few words on why they should be profiled to: Brian Wasag, Senior Editor, *RSES Journal*; e-mail bwasag@rses.org; or fax 847-297-5038.

COMING TO RSES JOURNAL IN DECEMBER 2011

- ↳ **Trucks & Vans:** Take a look at the 2012 class of trucks and vans rolling into the new year.
- ↳ **Piping:** Learn what it takes to successfully install near boiler piping in order to make a hydronic system work.
- ↳ **Compressor Troubleshooting:** Read about a simple preventative maintenance checklist that can save more than 70% of all compressor breakdown caused by system component failures.

In addition to these features *RSES Journal* will have an article on HCFCs, Industry and Society news, Troubleshooting, MSAC Hotline and more.