

Human Faces

"New TTT Program Encourages Truss Plant Tours" by Melinda Caldwell

As the component manufacturing industry becomes more technologically advanced, it is increasingly important to make plant tours an integral part of your company's efforts to "put a human face on the component industry." It is essential for builders, architects, engineers, building officials and other members of your community to experience and understand the level of quality and precision that goes into manufacturing engineered components. As Kim Krizak, Engineering/Design Manager for Trussway, stated in the [September/October 2000 issue of WOODWORDS](#), "...the educational opportunity this type of event provides...only works to open up lines of communication."

WTCA's Truss Technology Workshop (TTW) program has made it even easier to conduct a truss plant tour by developing a TTW that guides component manufacturers through the process. Initiated by a successful WTCA New York Chapter meeting that included a number of New York State Building Officials, the new TTW has been approved for continuing education credits for building officials in the state of New York. Approval is also being sought in Florida, and WTCA staff can provide assistance in getting this program approved in your state as well.

According to WTCA-NY Chapter President Sid Ketchum, providing this type of program has "... directly benefited the New York State Building Inspectors by giving them a way to meet their continuing education goals. WTCA-NY has also benefited by being able to build strong relationships with the inspectors and educate them about the truss industry and its commitment to safety and quality."

This program is an ideal way to get regular plant tours underway at your facility and, in doing so, to provide a valuable service to builders, building officials, specifiers, the fire service and legislators in your area. You might be surprised by the interest you can generate with this hands-on approach to putting a human face on the component industry.

"Building officials in particular are recognizing the value of plant tours in continuing their professional education, especially as it relates to the component industry," stated Barb Speer, TTW Coordinator. "If this group is interested in learning more about our industry in this way, it would be a shame not to take advantage of the opportunity."

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