

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS)

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"Private Truss Technician Training" by Brigit Frank



You can see the telltale signs of summer all around: warm weather, brisk business and no Truss Technician Training (TTT) courses scheduled. Don't worry though, the regular TTT schedule will be back again when the seasons change. Until then, consider the possibility of having a private TTT in your workplace.

WTCA offers TTT classes for truss designers, estimators, salespeople and managers. The purpose of TTTs is to, "Provide an industry training program that will develop the skills of existing industry truss technicians and expand the number of employable truss technicians available for our industry." Courses are available at all levels and include a wide range of topics relating to trusses from basic terminology to software for component design.

As a convenience, WTCA allows private TTTs to be scheduled year-round. These private classes are a great benefit. They can be scheduled when you want, where you want and with only the students who you choose in attendance.* Even better, they are generally less expensive than sending your staff out of town to attend a class.

Please be aware, however, that scheduling a private TTT does not ensure its success. The technical staff at WTCA who instruct these classes find that companies that make the effort to do some simple preparations, have better classes. Effective private TTT classes follow several steps to success.

HAVE SOMEONE FROM SENIOR MANAGEMENT ATTEND

You will be doing more by attending than acting as a study hall monitor. Your presence in class demonstrates your commitment to continuing education—for you and your employees. Your enthusiasm in class will also help make them enthusiastic about our industry.

MINIMIZE CLASS INTERRUPTIONS

TTT classes move at a fast pace, making it impossible for students to miss even a small amount of class time. Make sure that the class won't be subjected to repeated interruptions. You may want to go as far as scheduling the class off-site. In addition, allow the students to commit their entire day to the coursework. Salespeople, for example, should turn off their cell phones as this type of interruption can kill the momentum of the class.

BASIC PREPARATION

By making sure that the members of your TTT class are prepared to participate in the training (TTT students should be able to use a scientific calculator and solve simple equations), the instructor will be able to move at a consistent pace and maximize the amount of information delivered. This is a great benefit of private TTTs, your company controls the skill level of the class.

USE THE RESULTS

TTT class results let you know the strengths and growth opportunities of each of your employees. Use these results to help you manage each individual's career. This takes some work on your part but the benefits far outweigh the effort. Providing continuing education after the class to help your employees improve will ultimately help your business improve. TTT results will also help you motivate your employees by using their individual strengths to the fullest potential.

Private TTT classes are what you make of them. The instructors at WTCA recommend these steps to prepare for TTT classes. Based on past classes, they are currently making a checklist of information to help other companies prepare for their private TTT classes. WTCA's goal is to make every class the best it can be. By working closely together, we can achieve your goal of improving the skills of your people, and thus the profitability of your business.

*Please contact WTCA (ttt@woodtruss.com) for more information on scheduling a private TTT.

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