

In my opinion...

DEAN SAYS:

So You Want To Share Your Knowledge

The old saw declared: "Those who can, do. Those who can't, teach."

Recently the National Education Association countered with an internal and external public relations campaign: "Those who can, teach. Those who can't, perform several other less worthy tasks."

Well, having quite enough conflict in my life, thank you, I do not wish to get into a battle between proponents of either of these philosophical points of view. I am increasingly convinced, however, that at a time when educational psychologists are bombarding various professional publications with a landslide of information on adult educational skills, we who champion the cause of improved education and training for people who work in all phases of the fire alarm industry would do well to take notice and improve our teaching skills.

In this regard, I have recently spent some time with folks from the Emergency Management Accreditation and Certification System, a division of The Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management (formerly known as the International Society of Fire Service Instruc-

tors). This particular division, better known as "EMACS" (rhymes with "Big Mac"), has developed a premier system for certifying those who teach adults subject matter that falls into the broad category of emergency management.

Because fire alarm systems are, indeed, tools used by management to manage the fire protection equipment and systems at a facility, instructional content relating to fire alarm systems certainly is a part of "emergency management" information. The effectiveness of

those who teach such content can be greatly enhanced by seeking certification under EMACS.

Several levels of certification have been identified in two classifications: Instruction Classifications and Educational Support Classifications. These are best represented graphically by the chart.

Dr. Joseph W. Duffy writing in the second edition of his book, *Instructional Skills for the Company Officer*, probably said it best: "There is no more challenging, rewarding or satisfying responsibility than that of being a teacher." On an almost-daily basis, most of us in the fire alarm industry attempt to teach

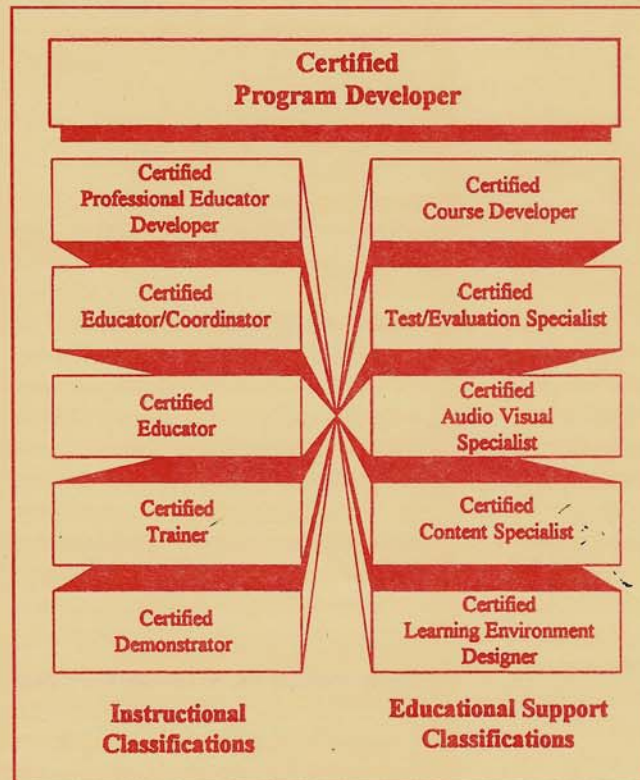
some skills to someone we encounter in the course of fulfilling our job responsibility. How much better clarity and retention would result if we had an opportunity to learn some basic techniques of effective adult education.

It is with such a goal in mind that the Professional Emergency Educators Association in conjunction with the Institute for Life Safety Technology and Emergency Management Education, two other divisions of The Alliance for Fire and Emergency Management, have put to-

gether courses to prepare participants to obtain certification under the EMACS Educator Certification Program.

I would strongly encourage anyone who desires to raise this portion of his or her professionalism to contact EMACS to discuss the course availability:

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