Thousands pass through Academy courses – and demand grows

THE CANDIDATE ACADEMY has just celebrated its 1 000th trainee on the “Road to Registration” course – a milestone reached in record time due to the growing demand for support for ‘mature’ candidates. Counting all the courses they offer, the Academy will soon have trained 2 000 people since April 2010.

Mature candidates are those who have long since been eligible for registration, but have simply never sat down to write up their applications. During these courses, delegates are encouraged to work out how to structure their submission, complete their first and last Training and Experience Reports under guidance, and plan their major project report, so that they can go and complete the rest of the submission with confidence. Already one of the first mature candidates to attend this course (which commenced in July 2011) has been registered.

“We at the Candidate Academy are committed to supporting and encouraging mature candidates, as well as candidates who have been deferred,” said Allyson Lawless, SAICE Professional Development and Projects director and driver of the Candidate Academy. “We also support candidates whose applications had been refused – we help them review their experience and suggest types of work they should be involved in and levels of responsibility they should assume to enhance their engineering capabilities.”

HELPING HAND
The Academy is an initiative of SAICE Professional Development and Projects, and Consulting Engineers South Africa (CESA), to improve the numbers and quality of engineering graduates eligible to register with the Engineering Council of South Africa (ECSA). Since its inception, the demand for training has grown and many delegates report ‘sailing through’ the ECSA process as a result of the insight they gained from the courses.

COURSES FOR EARLY 2012
The training offered by the Candidate Academy is not limited to the “Road to Registration” course. It includes introductory practical training in a range of disciplines, such as pipeline and sewer design, road maintenance, contract administration and others. These allow the young graduates to deal with their first tasks in the workplace. The courses planned for the first four months of 2012 are listed in Table 1.

MATURE TRAINING IN 2012
The following courses are also being planned, but venues and dates have not been finalised yet (please watch this space for updates):
- Road to Registration for Mentors, Supervisors and HR
- Embankment and Soil Stabilisation
- Basic Contract Administration and Quality Assurance
- Basic Sewer Design
- Basic Water Reticulation Design
- Basic Structural Design

The Academy prides itself on delivering top quality service and products that are relevant and practical, so if you have suggestions that could improve our offerings, please contact us (contact details below).

IN-HOUSE COURSES
There has been an increasing demand for in-house courses during 2011. If you have large numbers who require training, let us customise a course to suit your needs.

TOOLS TO PLAN AND TRACK
If you are a candidate for ECSA registration, don’t forget that the Candidate Academy has developed a comprehensive package for graduates (and your employers), making it easier to plan, track and report on your training and learning activities. Contact Marthelene on saice@ally.co.za to order your Portfolio of Evidence files and/or the Journal Program CD.

CONTACT DETAILS
For more details or to book on one of the courses, contact SAICE or CESA:
- SAICE-arranged courses: Marthelene on saice@ally.co.za
- CESA-arranged courses: Mary on sce@cesa.co.za
- Website: www.civilsmasakheni.co.za (click on the ‘Candidate Academy’ button)

Table 1 Candidate Academy courses planned for the first four months of 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Road to Registration for Candidates (1 day)</td>
<td>Johannesburg CESA</td>
<td>Cape Town CESA</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth SAICE</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2 February</td>
<td>5 March</td>
<td>24 April</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Road to Registration for Mature Candidates (1 day)</td>
<td>Johannesburg CESA</td>
<td>Cape Town CESA</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9 February</td>
<td>6 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pavement Rehabilitation and Maintenance (3 days)</td>
<td>Durban</td>
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<td>14 – 16 March</td>
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<tr>
<td>GCC for Candidates (2 days)</td>
<td>Durban, 13 – 14 February</td>
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<tr>
<td>Basic Pressure Pipeline Design (2 days)</td>
<td>Port Elizabeth, 13 – 14 March</td>
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