Although the pandemic has shut our in-person pipe school down, it has created a once in a lifetime opportunity for the ACPA member companies to educate more than just a few select employees that typically get to go to the in-person pipe school, but all their employees. Because this year we’re bringing the school to them, to their plants, across the world wide web.

Through the ACPA’s Learning Management System (LMS), this virtual classroom allows the plants to set their own schedule with multiple learning paths and train all their employees at a fraction of the cost it has been to send even one person to the Pipe School. In addition to individual registration, this year it’s possible for the member companies to register their employees by plant for one low price, enabling them to share this training with all their Company employees. This is an opportunity no ACPA member company should miss.

As part of Pipe School, during the month of February 2021, starting on Monday, February 1st, there will be a total of 32 hours of production oriented training classes made available on the ACPA LMS (16 hrs of Basic Production, 8 hrs of Quality, 8 hrs of Advanced Production). The Production School ends on Friday, February 26th with the Live Awards Show. We would like to suggest that this would be a good opportunity for the participating plants to organize a luncheon for their employees and celebrate with us as we conclude the 2021 Pipe School.

At the Live Awards Show, we will recognize the recipients of the Mel Marshall and the ACPA Production Journeyman Awards, as well as the winners of the ACPA Chairman’s Safety and Quality, and QCast Awards.

The training classes offered will cover everything from raw materials to finished product and process improvements along the way, and we will emphasize proper production procedures including safety, quality, operations and personal management skills. We’re also sharing safety and quality improvement ideas across the continent. There will be Machinery Workshops provided by Hawkeye and Besser. Associate Member Sponsor videos will be embedded into the training classes. At scheduled times, a panel of experts will be available to provide answers to any questions. These sessions will be recorded and shared with all participants, however, they will only be available to the registered plants. Specific details of the training classes will be provided at a later date.

Registration

A plant representative registers the plant through the ACPA web portal. They will need to indicate the approximate number of employees at the plant participating in the school and designate a Plant Training Facilitator. This person will be responsible for setting up the plant classroom and running the training program. Facilitator training and instructions will be provided by the ACPA in late January. After registration, the ACPA will send a welcome package/materials to the Plant Training Facilitator.
Plant Facilitator Training
Facilitator training will take place in late January. The Plant Training Facilitators will be guided through the process of selecting the appropriate learning path based on the needs of the individual plant. For example, the plant may choose to shut down for 4 hours in the morning on each Tuesday in February to take all the Basic Production classes with all plant employees. Then the plant supervisory & QC staff for example, could then also take the Advanced Production and Quality classes on each Thursday for 4 hours per day. All of these classes will be separate from the other ACPA Training Tracks so any of those can be participated in as the employer or staff desires. The options, combinations, dates, start times, duration, participants, all are completely adjustable to the individual plants. All will have full access to all classes during February and they are in full control of who will be trained, what classes they take, and when they take them. The Plant Training Facilitators will also receive training on how to set up the classroom at their plant and all aspects of accessing and using the ACPA LMS. They will also have an opportunity to conduct a dry run of a training class with their plant setup and the ACPA LMS to ensure that everything is working as desired prior to the start of the pipe school. ACPA staff and volunteers will be available during the school to help with any technical issues or questions.

ACPA Learning Management System (LMS)
All classes will be delivered through the ACPA LMS. The ACPA LMS is easy to use, it has a user friendly, intuitive dashboard showing all the available classes, making it easy for the Plant Training Facilitator to select the appropriate class based on the training path and schedule selected. The classes will be divided roughly into 1-hour segments to provide all the learning path possibilities. For example, the Basic Production Track could be completed over a 16-day period by doing 1 hour per day.

Plant Training Sessions
On (or before) February 1st, the ACPA will send the user login and password information for the ACPA LMS. The local Plant Training Facilitator will be charged with coordinating the training sessions at the plant. Plant training sessions should be set up in a comfortable room large enough to safely accommodate the number of students. Wifi/Internet access and a computer is needed to access the ACPA LMS. The computer should be connected to a large screen TV or a projector with good quality sound for an optimum learning experience. Training participants, dates, times, classes, etc should be selected before the beginning of the school, this can be done at, or prior to the facilitator training session. It is recommended that the Plant Training Facilitator consult the local plant management regarding the local setup and plan.

Please contact the ACPA with any further questions about the upcoming Pipe School.