

Willamette to deliver UMC Program in the fall

The Utility Management Certificate (UMC) program, delivered by Willamette University's Executive Development Center, is recruiting its third group to begin on September 17. Supported by NWPPA, the Utility Education and Training Alliance, and the Northwest Hydroelectric Association, the program can accept up to 28 supervisors, managers, and directors from up to 12 utilities.

The program, presented at the Willamette University Portland Center in the heart of downtown Portland, Ore., is separated into two five-day segments with a three-week break between them. Participants learn how the operating units in a utility fit together to earn money: they first learn the impacts of the industry's history, technologies, and environment on current operations, and then they learn how to understand a utility's operations through its financial statements and budgeting, all within the context of rate regulation. Industry executives and consultants serve as instructors, delivering proven management techniques.

"Participants find the material, instructors, and peer learning opportunities valuable in thinking strategically and planning for the future," said Steven Maser, director of the UMC program. "Utilities use the UMC as a management development tool to help the industry train new talent, especially related to succession planning as the baby boomers retire."

During the break between segments, participants explore how their own companies manage risk; they then begin the second segment by exploring best practices in risk management and learning the strategic role of human resource management and techniques for managing change. The program closes with how to understand the contribution of information technology, explore methods for managing stakeholder relationships, and analyze the future of the industry.

"Overall, the experience forced me to take the time to look into the future and think strategically," said Dave Ward, assistant T&D manager at Tacoma Power. "It both challenged and refreshed me, because it was different from my everyday job."

Additionally, the group setting allows participants from different gas and electric utilities to share experiences and ideas. "First, it forced me to step back and look at the big picture from the utility standpoint," said Ward. "Second, I got to listen to a lot of different viewpoints from the other participants."

For more information on the UMC, visit www.willamette.edu/mba/utility, e-mail utilitymgmt@willamette.edu, or call (866) 385-7622. Program dates for 2007 are September 17-21 and October 15-19. **NWPPA**

Please take note...

The 2007 *General Managers Wage & Compensation Survey* and the *Directors, Commissioners, and Other Elected Officials Survey* is open for members to participate in.

Visit NWPPA's Web page at http://www.nwppa.org/Surveys/survey_start.htm.

Questions? Call NWPPA at (360) 254-0109. Surveys will be open until **June 15, 2007**.

A look back at public power

50 years ago — 1957

The Idaho Legislature adopted the anti-pirating law requested by Idaho's rural electric cooperatives ... Almost 1,000 people watched as Governor Rosellini pushed the button to pour the first concrete for the 630,000-kilowatt powerhouse at the Priest Rapids Dam (Wash.) ... James M. Garrison, former REA field engineer for Montana, became the new manager for Flathead Electric Cooperative in Kalispell, Mont. ... Cowlitz PUD received five bids for construction of the Lower Swift Project on the Lewis River (Wash.).



25 years ago — 1982

The Chemical Bank lawsuit against the Washington Public Power Supply System and the 88 participant utilities in plants Four and Five became a central case in the issue of bond payments on the plants ... The City of Idaho Falls officially dedicated its bulb turbine project on the Snake River ... The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers awarded a contract to modernize part of the power generation system at the John Day Dam to Canadian General Electric Co. ... It was announced that there would be a number of changes in PUD commissioners in the state of Washington after the coming elections because with 24 positions up for election, only 13 incumbents had filed to retain their offices.

5 years ago — 2002

Terry Anderson, Wahkiakum PUD's lead customer service clerk, retired from the utility after 25 years of service (Wash.) ... General Pacific promoted its self-help customer service Quick-Ship, a Web-based service that allows General Pacific customers to order and pay in a secure Web environment (Ore.) ... Nushagak Electric Cooperative named Ralph Wilson as its new chief executive officer and general manager (Alaska) ... For the third straight year, the National Arbor Day Foundation gave the Tree Line USA Award to Benton PUD for its tree professional program, which helps customers plant the appropriate kinds of trees near utility lines (Wash.) ... The Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and Seattle City Light reached an agreement under which BPA will fund City Light energy conservation programs over the next two years and City Light will reduce the amount of power that it gets from BPA (Wash.).

NWPPA