



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

## Center for Lifelong Engineering Education

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### **PRESS RELEASE**

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## **An Educator's view on Energy & Education with Cath Polito**

Cath is the Executive Director at UT Austin's Center for Lifelong Engineering Education (CLEE). CLEE provides results-based learning through weekend Master's degrees and professional development courses that make a difference in engineer's lives and work.

**Q: Hi Cath – thanks for speaking on energy and education today. Energy training has changed a lot in the last few years. What would you say is the greatest change?**

A: Today's energy market is volatile. In the past, the conversation used to center on petroleum, hydrocarbon, natural gas, and power. Now, in addition to those sources, alternative fuel supplies (wind, solar, renewable energy) are considered viable options. The significant change we have seen is that the interest in our resources extends beyond the engineers tasked with supplying the energy; the general population is taking the time to learn more about our energy preferences.

**Q: How do you see the economy impacting energy training?**

A: Because of the down economy, many companies across the nation have cut back their number of employees. Often they also cut the funds allocated for training and/or travel. As a result, their remaining employees have less time and reduced funding for energy training.

**Q: What do you think is the greatest current opportunity for energy education right now?**

A: Hands-on instruction, real-life examples, and current market data – so that our students leave with tools they can immediately use in the workplace.

**Q: What do you think is the greatest risk for energy education right now?**

A: The greatest risk is for companies to think that energy training is an option; it is an imperative.

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**Q: Are there any upcoming energy events that would be of interest?**

A: Start the conversation by attending our COAL, GAS, & RENEWABLES – June 10, 2010 - Discussion topics will include climate change issues, the need for reduction in carbon emissions and the role of renewables in the electricity industry.

ENERGY, TECHNOLOGY & POLICY – August 17-19, 2010 - Fast-paced and information-packed lectures that include real-world examples; entertaining anecdotes; engineering fundamentals, historical perspectives; and an outlook for the future of energy.

Our ENERGY SOLUTIONS WORKSHOP – August 24-26, 2010 – focuses on tools to implement key projects enabling a reduction of energy costs by 10% with paybacks of less than a year.

**Q: What steps should executives take to ensure the success of their energy implementations?**

A: Institute best practices across all locations; get feedback from experts and stakeholders; implement key projects that will offset the expense of training in less than a year to establish a strong ROI.

Thank you Cath, for taking the time to chat today.

If you would like to know more, please contact Cath Polito at 232.5172 or [cpolito@mail.utexas.edu](mailto:cpolito@mail.utexas.edu).

### **About the Center for Lifelong Engineering Education**

The University of Texas at Austin's Cockrell School of Engineering is one of the Top 10 distinguished engineering schools in the country. Our professional development department, the Center for Lifelong Engineering Education, provides busy engineers with immediately applicable, real-world knowledge through individual courses, master's degrees and on-site custom courses.

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