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RIBA Institute: The move is part of a larger expansion of RIBA member services

September 10, 2009 - Rhode Island

In the firm belief that one of the best ways members can improve their own lives and businesses is to be better educated, the Rhode Island Builders Association is expanding its schedule of seminars, classes and workshops in the framework of a "RIBA Institute."

Along with regular offerings such as the 8-Hour Initial Lead-Safe Remodeler/Renovator Course, the Hoisting Pre-Licensing Class, and the OSHA 10-Hour Course, RIBA this fall will present seminars on estimating, insurance for contractors, business management, "green" building, customer service and more.

Beginning in January, there also will be classes leading toward professional certifications from the National Association of Home Builders. These include Graduate Master Builder (GMB), Certified Green Professional (CGP), Certified Graduate Remodeler (CGR) and much more.

"The RIBA Institute will increase the association's focus on member education," said RIBA development coordinator Joanne DiGregorio. "We're very excited to include the NAHB courses."

Members have expressed great interest in an expanded education program, she added.

"This is your chance to expand your knowledge and make your business even better. The business recovery might be closer than you think, so take advantage of these courses," said DiGregorio.

New instructors will include David Caldwell Jr., CGP, of Caldwell and Johnson Inc., who has recently become NAHB-certified through the Train the Trainer Program. Members are encouraged to register early for courses, as they are expected to be in demand, and class sizes may be limited.

"The RIBA Institute is part of a much larger picture, DiGregorio stated. "We want RIBA to be the source: to offer services that help members in every aspect of their professional lives. We want members to look to us for better health care for themselves, their families and employees. That's why we offer flu clinics and health insurance.

Along with education, members can look to us for guidance on their business and regulatory questions."

Paul Eno is the owner and editor-in-chief of New River Press, Woonsocket and is the editor of the monthly RIBA newsletter, The Rhode Island Builder Report.

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