

INLA NEWS

INLA and Central Nine Career Center Host First Student "Passport to Certification" Exam

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INLA Executive Director



The Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association, the state licensee for the international PLANET "Landscape Industry Certified" (CLT) certification program, has partnered with Central Nine Career Center in Greenwood, Indiana, for a permanent test site for the hands-on skills test.

The first tests were held in 2009 and 2010 at the Daniel Turf Center in West Lafayette and in 2012 at Central Nine. On April 12, 2013, we hosted two high school career centers that participated in this first-time event for a total of ten students.

This certification includes a written and hands-on/skills exam, which requires each individual problem to be passed with a minimum 70% pass rate to become fully certified. There are five modules to this certification program; however, the only module offered to the students is "Softscape." The additional modules are Hardscape, Irrigation, Ornamental Maintenance, and Turf. To date, the most popular modules with Indiana industry are the Softscape and Ornamental Maintenance. For complete details on certification visit www.inla1.org or PLANET's website at www.landcarenetwork.org/certification.

The "Passport to Certification" is offered to Indiana high school horticulture and landscape management students (typically in their second year). The teacher incorporates the certification materials into their curriculum and works with the eligible students throughout the school year. In 2009, the Indiana Department of Education accepted both the Indiana Accredited Horticulturist and Landscape Industry Certified certifications for their Technical Honors program. Due to a change in administration, these programs were removed from the Technical Honors program last year. The INLA has reapplied this year and anticipates the programs being reinstated, hopefully retroactively for the students that tested this year. We hope to know something later this summer.

Central Nine Career Center is located in Greenwood, Indiana, and serves nine high schools on the south side of Indianapolis and northern Johnson County. The schools in Indianapolis are: Beech Grove, Southport, Perry, and Franklin Township. Johnson County schools are Center Grove, Greenwood, Whiteland, Franklin Community, and Indian Creek. They provide facilities, appropriate equipment, technological instruction, and learning environment relevant to business and industrial needs to promote students' success. Several INLA members serve on the Horticulture/Landscape Management Advisory Board where educator Joe Ramey has served 25 years.

Joe Ramey is the only Indiana educator, at this time, who is Landscape Industry Certified. He became certified in 2009 during the first hands-on exam held in West Lafayette. Joe is deeply respected by his students and industry professionals. His program offers classroom and hands-on instruction.

This partnership serves our members well by providing quality young people who will someday be leaders in our industry.



VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank the following judges and volunteers for assisting in the success of this first-time effort. Without their continued support and time, this program would not continue.

CLT Committee:

Chair: Jim Messmer; Rick Haggard, Joe Ramey, Steve Monro, Jeff Linder, and Jerry White

CLT Judges:

Dan Weingart, Steve Deckard, Dustin Hoffman, Matt Williams, and... INLA Board Members, Rich Blankenship, Robert Johnstone, and Brian Julius

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