



## *Jodie Eiland*

### **Jodie Eiland – Our second featured SME HERO!!**

Back in college, the zoology lab assistant asked me what I was doing one day and I told him that I was drawing a landscape plan. I was *supposed* to be drawing the internal system of an earthworm! The lab assistant asked if I liked landscaping better than college. I truthfully replied, “Yes!” He asked, “Then what are you doing here?” This started me on the road to full time employment in the construction business.

Joining the floor covering apprenticeship program, I laid floors for a few years before migrating into framing (framers get to stand up). I then moved into concrete work while bouncing between landscaping, framing, flooring, and concrete work. I developed an intense interest in the construction business, working with roofing, drywall and plumbing. We built both tract houses and apartments while interspersing some light commercial in the mix. When a residential building slump occurred, I moved to tilt-ups, tunnels, and other commercial concrete structures, working mostly union jobs as a foreman and later as a superintendent.

I earned my California Contractors License in 1987, alternating between residential and commercial work. My family decided to move to Oklahoma in 1993, looking for wide open spaces and shorter drive times. I substituted for a retiring carpentry instructor in a career tech program in 1995, and replaced him the following year.

Being one of a few instructors in the state who had a commercial background, I was invited to be on the curriculum revision committee for Oklahoma based CIMC. When NOCTI asked the State Department of Education for industry experts, my name came up. I have participated in five construction related revisions with NOCTI. Because of my western and central U.S. connections, I have given NOCTI numerous contacts in other trade areas from the western half of the country. I have also frequently assisted NOCTI as an SME in building trades when technical issues arise on a subject-related assessment.

My wife, Georgianna, and I have been married for 30 years. We enjoy traveling, old houses, architecture, and history. With one daughter, Jennifer, in New York, the other daughter, Kellie, here in Oklahoma, and family in California and Florida, we have plenty of reasons to travel around the United States. When home, I enjoy our 300 acres of oak forests and wide open spaces.

I asked Jodie the following questions about his longstanding relationship with NOCTI and the test revision process:

**1. Please list the test revisions and other special test-related projects that you have been affiliated with through NOCTI and/or The Whitener Group:**

Carpentry: September 2004  
Building Trades: August 2005  
Cabinetmaking: September 2005  
Building Trades Maintenance: March 2007  
Carpentry: February 2008  
Education and Training Cluster: August 2008

**2. Would you briefly elaborate on some of the more interesting or positive aspects of your associations with NOCTI?**

The most interesting part of the process is the opportunity to network with fellow instructors and tradesmen around the country. Also, regional differences in construction techniques and terminology surface during the revision process and that process is always interesting to observe. Third, is the process of test writing and student assessment, which comes into play as feedback from previous test takers helps one to understand the value of a clear, well written test question that takes into consideration all learning styles, regional anomalies, and assessor skill levels.

**3. Would you recommend becoming involved in a test revision or development team to other people?**

I have recommended the test revision process to at least 9 different individuals in both the central and western United States. From electrical to nursing, machining to graphic arts, and engineering to auto-cad, I have given NOCTI additional resources so that the testing can have a truly national relevance.

If you are interested in participating in one of NOCTI'S assessment revisions or new assessment developments, please contact Bonnie Newland at [bonnie.newland@nocti.org](mailto:bonnie.newland@nocti.org)