

Subject Matter Experts (SME) SPOTLIGHT

Every new assessment development and every assessment revision that NOCTI conducts involves teamwork. Teamwork is truly the beating heart of the entire process, and our subject matter experts (SMEs) are at the center of every heartbeat. We have been privileged to work with many hundreds of these tremendous individuals over the years. SMEs must have at least three years of recent full-time experience in the particular subject area involved, although most of our SMEs have impressive and extensive histories in the field. These are dedicated people who sincerely want to take a personal role in contributing to technical education improvements. Our test revision or test development process takes some time and hard work, but these individuals create time in their already busy schedules to come together and drive the process of assessment revision or development.

NOCTI wants to honor our SMEs by creating this new “SME Spotlight”. This will be a regular feature in our quarterly newsletters and will be highlighted on our website. We will spotlight one or two of our SMEs each time, and will include a little history of these individuals in “their own words”. We think you will all agree that these people are dynamic and inspiring individuals, and we want to offer our sincere appreciation to these spotlighted team members and to all of our excellent SMEs!

We want to kick off this new “SME Spotlight” by introducing you to **Mr. Tony Sandutch** from Pennsylvania. I could fill many pages with my admiration and appreciation for Tony’s contributions to NOCTI. Tony has worked with NOCTI on the following test revisions and other testing projects over the years:

- Electrical Construction
- Electrical Occupations
- Industrial Electricity
- Electronics
- Industrial Electronics
- Electrical Construction Study Guide
- Electronics Study Guides
- Re-write of Electrical Construction
- Motor Control Schematics



Tony Sandutch

Tony Sandutch – Our first featured **SME HERO!**

I went to a “High Schools That Work” conference in St. Louis about 4 years ago and walked up to NOCTI's booth. I told the staff that their tests had some mistakes in them. The reply was, “Would you like to help us revise the tests by becoming a participant on a Subject Matter Expert team?” That was the birth of my relationship with NOCTI and I am so glad it happened.

My first “job” at troubleshooting involved a portable record player, which should give you a clue to my age! The twist to the troubled record player was that it worked perfectly. I just received it as a Christmas gift at the age of seven and that Christmas morning I just had to know how it worked. So I disassembled the entire record player on my bedroom floor much to my mother’s dismay. I did get it back together and proudly showed Mom that it worked. Well, it did go round and round, but it played a little slow!

I have been intrigued by technology my entire life, so after high school I decided to enter Lincoln Technical School. That led to a job troubleshooting computer systems as a field engineer where I traveled to most of the fifty states, Canada, Mexico, and even Europe. After some years of that, the constant traveling got to me. I never knew where I was going to lay my head at night. Someone always called with a problem and I was off to the nearest airport to catch the next flight out. I then accepted a position at a local power plant doing much of the same thing. I rose through the ranks to a prime engineering position where I was responsible for the electrical, computer, mechanical, and warehousing of a steam turbine generator power plant. The job was challenging and demanded a lot of time. In addition to all of the technical aspects of the job, I was also responsible for training employees in both the operations and maintenance departments. It was then that I realized how much I enjoyed teaching. A local company asked me if I would teach an electrical apprentice program at night and I accepted. Luzerne County Community College also asked me to teach electrical, motor controls and programmable logic controllers for them and I accepted that also.

After a few years, I decided to leave the power industry and focus my career on teaching. I completed my teacher training at Temple University and I currently teach at Hazleton Area High School. In the evenings, I teach an electrical apprentice program at the Hazleton Career Center and I teach industrial electricity, motor controls, programmable logic controllers, pneumatics/hydraulics and industrial electronics at Penn State University.

I am currently engaged to the most intriguing woman I have ever met in my life and we are planning our wedding for August of 2007.

I asked Tony the following questions about his long-standing relationship with NOCTI and the Test Revision process:

Question: Please elaborate on some of the more interesting or positive aspects of your associations with NOCTI.

Tony's Response: I found that NOCTI is dedicated to its customers by ensuring they receive a quality product. During test revisions, we spent many hours ensuring the questions were accurate and fair to the test taker. In addition, I found that NOCTI's personnel were dedicated, considerate and punctual. For example, there were occasions when I would be working on a revision on the weekend and email off the revision on a Saturday night only to find that I received an answer back that night! I wondered if the workers ever take time off.

Question: Would you recommend becoming involved in a test revision or development team to other people?

Tony's Response: Yes! As a matter of fact, I have suggested this to my colleagues who are in other disciplines.

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