



Improving Performance and Optimizing Design. Continuing Professional Education Programs: Good or bad for education and institutions of higher learning?

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Abstract

I plan to make the case that schools like Georgia Institute of Technology that have scheduled their first series of professional education courses at Georgia Tech-Savannah in order to serve a broader population of adult learners and working professionals are doing what it takes to make professional programs more appealing to students. Starting fall 2012, a total of 11 Georgia Tech Professional Education courses will be offered at the Savannah campus in the areas of Lean Healthcare, Lean & Process Improvement, Occupational Safety & Health, Project Management, and Supply Chain & Logistics Management.

I believe that Georgia Tech Professional Education is just one example I will provide that seeks to provide innovative educational opportunities to foster professional, economic and workforce development. They are further supporting an individual's crusade to advance their careers and remain more competitive in their place of employment. Taught by top Georgia Tech faculty and leading industry experts, Georgia Tech Professional Education courses I believe are relevant and immediately applicable in the workplace. Registration for all courses is now open. Individuals who register 30 days or more in advance will receive a 15 percent discount on course fees. Courses include: Lean Overview and Simulation for Healthcare, Lean for Healthcare, Turnover Time Reduction, Grain Handling Safety, Transportation and Distribution Planning and Management, Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for the Construction Industry, Trainer Course in Occupational Safety and Health Standards for General Industry, Lean Manufacturing, Overview and Live Simulation, Lean and Safe, Safety Integrated Process Improvement, Introduction to Safety and Health Program Management, Project Management Introduction, Fundamentals to Successful Projects, Project Management, Managing Risk and Procurements. The mission of Georgia Tech Professional Education and others is to develop an educated workforce that is prepared to lead our industries and communities which is what the future 'professional' student will demand. The division has global impact by supporting economic development via commercialization, innovation and advancing knowledge through research and discovery. In the last year alone, Georgia Tech Professional Education had an overall enrollment of 28,000 students from around the world. Over the next year, they will look at other programs that tie the global strengths of Georgia Tech with local and regional assets to better provide education to industry partners, businesses and military organizations, as well as visitors and students from abroad. They are empowering people to learn, and are connecting and expanding our global learning community to meet the evolving needs of students. Georgia Tech Professional Education programs do not have minimum requirements or other prerequisites for enrollment. I believe another exemplary model for professional education in the 21st century, Philadelphia University is at the forefront using state-of-the-art technology to expand the boundaries of exceptional educational programs that benefit our students both in the classroom and beyond in the workplace. To better meet the needs of today's students, Philadelphia University plans to develop additional online programs that will give graduates the education and skills they need to succeed and lead in their chosen fields. PhilaU Online undergraduate programs will be offered in six eight-week terms annually, allowing students to take classes and proceed at a pace that their schedules allow. Courses include discussions and project-based collaborative learning opportunities, similar to on-campus courses. PhilaU faculty will teach PhilaU Online classes. I believe that PhilaU Online is a prime addition to Philadelphia University's educational offerings, In fact, as part of their portfolio of online programs, Philadelphia University is one of just a few institutions worldwide that provide students with a studio-based online experience through their Master's in Sustainable Design program. It is quite innovative and will give their graduates a competitive advantage in the marketplace.