



Certification and Testing Division

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TECO Provides Wood Design Text to University Students

Sun Prairie, WI — As it has done in each of the last several years, TECO is again providing text for university students enrolled in wood design courses, this spring at Oregon State University and the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Cooperating with the AF&PA American Wood Council, TECO donates design sets of the *National Design Specification® for Wood Construction* (NDS®), the primary wood design specification in the United States that is recognized by all U.S. model building codes. This year TECO is donating the NDS design sets for two separate timber and construction engineering courses at Oregon State and one at UW-Madison.

At Oregon State, Dr. Rakesh Gupta teaches the *Wood Science and Engineering - Wood Design* course that covers all aspects of wood design for civil and structural engineering students. The OSU *Construction Engineering Management Structures II* course, taught by Dr. John Gambatese, covers structural design utilizing both concrete and timber elements. Dr. Steven Cramer's *Wood Structures* course at UW-Madison is offered once each year and this year Dr. Cramer had almost twice as many students sign up as spots were available. Combined, these three courses enroll over 125 students.

Dr. Gupta, whose students have been the recipients of the donated NDS sets each of the past several years, believes that "it is of critical importance that all students graduating with a degree in civil or structural engineering be exposed to at least one course in wood behavior and design" ... "and support like TECO's will help ensure a well-trained supply of engineers who have that exposure." Adds Steve Winistorfer, President of TECO's Certification and Testing Division, "We've all seen the stories about the U.S. falling behind in the number of engineers and scientists our universities graduate. We believe it is part of our corporate responsibility to support these universities and their students, especially those with solid wood engineering programs like OSU and UW-Madison."

TECO, North America's value-added third-party certification agency for structural wood panel manufacturers, maintains offices in Sun Prairie and Madison, Wisconsin, and laboratories in Oregon and Louisiana. More information can be viewed on TECO's website at www.tecotested.com or obtained by calling toll-free at (866) 837-2790.