

BY MEREDITH MOSELEY-BENNETT
AND JANE PARSON

Building systems to better serve as the ETCP grows

MEREDITH MOSELEY-BENNETT: When people ask for my email and I tell them it is etcp@esta.org, they get worried that their message will be received by someone other than me. “Nope,” I say, “It comes to me, just me.” For the first few years, it was just me—sitting at a desk and stuffing a gazillion handbooks into

envelopes while I binge-watched episodes of *The Dick Van Dyke Show*. Once the program got a little traction and my responsibilities grew, I hired in a friend or two to assist in ID-making, filing, and handbook stuffing. The buddies I brought in to help did just fine in most cases, but this was their second or third gig, so it was hard to find someone committed to staying.

Early in 2016, I decided to cast the net a little wider. I didn’t put out an ad, but I did give a shout-out to the greatest network I know—my ETCP folks! I asked people to spread the word that we were looking. I didn’t hear anything promising for five days, and my friend

from graduate school mentioned she might be interested. She stayed for six months and then went back to acting and teaching. *sigh*

From that first job search, I did get one resume that came in the day *after* I had said yes to my friend. It was promptly saved to

my desktop, as a “JIC.” Honestly, I thought she was over-qualified, and would be quite bored with what the job entailed then. The moment I found out the position was open I opened the resume and gave her a call to see if there was any chance she might still be interested. Proving “you can’t judge a

book by its cover,” in walks this spunky gal with bright pink hair and a sense of funky fashion to go with it. After talking for few minutes, I found out she was the sweetie of Local One’s quadruple-certified technician, Matt Abdelnour.

At the end of this extensive 15-minute interview, I asked her when she could start. “Now? It looks like you are swamped!” She jumped right in and has become my consigliere. Plus, she makes sure to bring her guinea pig in on days that my 8-year-old comes into the office. Jane celebrated her third year with the program in November of last year, so we are thinking she is going to stick around. This is Jane. We like Jane.

JANE PARSON: “A piece of advice about the writing life,” my graduate writing

etcp.esta.org

ETCP Certifcants May Cross-Train!

As long as it connects to one of the ETCP Content Outlines, it counts! The topics below are suggestions of acceptable topics:

- OSHA 10/GENERAL ENTERTAINMENT SAFETY ©
- OSHA 30
- FALL PROTECTION
- CONSOLE TRAINING
- MATH COURSES
- HOIST TRAINING
- ADVANCED RIGGING COURSES
- ENTERTAINMENT ELECTRICTRICIAN TRAINING
- IRATA/SPRAT
- AERIAL PLATFORM TRAINING
- POWER DISTRIBUTION TRAINING
- NFPS, ANSI (as well as other standards programs that pertain to content)
- VECTORWORKS/AUTOCAD (not design-centered)
- PROJECTION
- AUDIO TRAINING

What counts for ETCP Renewal Credits?

Photo Credit: Angelina Vyushkova

professor told me, “Never turn down free food.” As a young writer entering the workforce during the Great Recession, it was a motto I had little choice but to live by while working at what’s called a “copy mill,” a windowless room where I cranked out 10-12 web articles a day about pharmaceutical recalls for medications that caused horrifying side effects like osteonecrosis of the jaw. When I was sufficiently traumatized by all the Google image searches I had to do to be able to write about osteonecrosis of the jaw in the first place, I decided it was time to move on. I tried my hand at the family business, working as a communications consultant for their private investigation firm. Even though I earned my keep, I knew I would always feel like I’d been given a handout, so I set my sights on the arts. But when I finally landed a dream job at one of the most famous museums in the world, it turned out to be a nightmare. Maybe I was being too picky, but I like to think I was just waiting for my pitch. Working for ETCP immediately felt more important than anything else I’d ever done. As soon as I started here, I knew I’d never leave, even though I only had a part-time position with no promise of going full-time. After two-and-one-half years I think everyone got the hint, and this past summer I was offered an additional role as ESTA’s new Social Media Coordinator. I jumped at the chance. Working here means I’m truly helping people, and what job could be more fulfilling than that?

Part of my new role here at ETCP and ESTA is building our sense of community. As I’ve started to meet more of you, both online and IRL, I’ve realized that there are more than a few Certified Technicians who don’t know about ESTA as well as ESTA members who don’t know about ETCP. This is why, as you may have noticed, ESTA’s Facebook Page has adopted the ETCP Study Group. And if you’re more of an Instagram person, I’ve also created an account, @we.are.esta that highlights all events and achievements within the ESTA family. I invite you to not only follow us on these

platforms, but to get involved. Every time you Like, Love, Laugh, Comment, or Share, you’re helping our family grow.

MEREDITH MOSELEY-BENNETT: Jane and I have been working very hard these last few months to implement systems to serve you better as the program grows. Ultimately, our plan is to create a safe and secure system that allows candidates to apply online.

The ETCP Portal, <http://etcp.esta.org/portal>, now allows certificants to update their information, when they have moved; add information to their online listing; and upload a picture for their ID if we do not have it on file.

Historically, when candidates have passed the exam, we have requested a picture for the ID, but sometimes this slips the mind of the certificants. Because employers are

requesting ID cards more frequently these days, we have decided that we must pull photos directly from the score reports. If a certificant wishes to have a different photo, that is an option, but only if a photo is submitted as soon as a passing score is received at a testing center. Those taking a paper and pencil exam can either send in a photo (even though the results are not immediate) or the person who set up the exam can take a photo the day of the exam. Replacement IDs can be purchased for \$10 should a certificant lose their ID or the photo does not look like the certificant any longer.

Speaking of photos that might need an update, ETCP would like to congratulate the inaugural class of 2005 Arena and Theatre Riggers. It took great courage for you to bite the bullet and set an example to the

Type of Experience	Renewal Credits	Maximum Credits
Work Experience	1 renewal credit per 40 hours of documented rigging work experience.	30
<i>Notes: Technicians who hold both an electrical and rigging certification, must submit work experience for each discipline, but only require a total of 10 educational credits.</i>		
Attending Training	ETCP Recognized Training = 1 renewal credit per hour/attendance Non-ETCP Recognized Training = 0.5 renewal credit per hour/attendance	30
Serving as a Trainer	ETCP Recognized Trainer/Training Program = 1.5 renewal credit per hour/attendance Non-ETCP Recognized Trainer/Training Program = 1 renewal credit per hour/attendance	30
<i>Notes: Certificants may train across multiple disciplines, however, the subject matter must connect to one of the following areas: entertainment safety, rigging, electrical, and/or portable power distribution. For a full list of ETCP Recognized Training Programs and Trainers as well a list of potential non-recognized courses/options, please visit: www.etcp-esta.org</i>		
Standards Writing in Rigging or Entertainment Electric	ESTA, ANSI, NFPA, or other relevant standards drafting organization = 1 renewal credit per hour of scheduled meetings (Attendance must be verifiable.)	20
Taking the ETCP Examination	30 renewal credits for a passing score (Examination must be completed at least one month prior to the cut-off date.)	30
<i>Notes: Taking the examination will not satisfy the 10-point requirement for training/professional development, however, the examination may be taken to fulfill the work experience requirement.</i>		

ETCP renewal credits

industry professionals around you. The ETCP Council would like to thank you for taking that step.

Because we have over 300 people recertifying in 2020, Jane and I thought it might be a good idea to remind everyone of the ETCP recertification process.

We all know that entertainment technology continues to evolve each year we are in business, and continuing professional development and education are essential. Therefore, the Council implemented the educational requirement. The 40-point requirement allows for a couple of scenarios:

- Accumulate 40 renewal credits (see table on page 79) from a combination of professional experience and education*
- Accumulate 10+ education renewal credits* **and** retake the certification exam

*What does this mean? It means that a certificant **must** attain at least 10 points

of education to recertify. Taking the test can only replace up to 30 points of work experience. Once the 10-point educational requirement is met, the certificant must document work experience over the last five years. For instance, if a certificant submits 10 points of education, he/she only needs to document 1,200 hours of work experience over the last five years.

When certificants attend a course that is ETCP Recognized, they receive 1 point per hour of attendance. The other advantage of taking these courses is that the credits are reported for you by the trainer. These credits are kept in your digital file, to help you keep track of your continuing education. In the first couple of months of 2020, expect a link on the portal that will allow online submissions, along with payment options to make recertifying a much simpler process.

We promise that we will continue to think outside of the box to serve our constituency more efficiently and at a speedier pace. ■



Meredith Moseley-Bennett has been the ETCP Certification Manager for the last 12 years. When she is not busy herding these particular cats, she is trying hard to raise her kid right and works on her side-hustle www.ohmybalm.com until the wee hours of the morning. Meredith can be reached at ETCP@esta.org.



Jane Parson has a growing collection of hats she wears at ESTA, where she started working in 2016. Often she is seen with her trusty sidekick, a guinea pig named Piggy Stardust, who also works at ESTA as a fuzz therapist in the New York office. Jane can be reached at jane.parson@esta.org.

GOING GREEN FOR A SAFER INDUSTRY ARE YOU ON THE MAP?

OVER 3,500 CERTIFICATIONS ISSUED

The number of ETCP Certifications has grown over 1000% since 2016, which has increased safety in workplaces all over North America. When will you add your pin to the map and join the other ETCP Certified Riggers, Entertainment Electricians and Portable Power Distribution Technicians who have made a commitment to safety?

The above map illustrates the approximate number of statewide certifications with each dot representing up to five. Certifications have also been issued in Costa Rica, Guam, Japan and the Netherlands.



Setting the stage for safety.

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