

Slate Affair Inc.

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Specializing in slate, tile, copper standing seam, and all sheet metal roofing-

www.slateaffair.com

To Members of the SRCA,

First, thank you for allowing me and my company Slate Affair Inc. to represent the SRCA in this year's Congress in Ireland. It was a great time to exchange ideas and contact information with many countries with ideas similar to what we are trying to do.

Seeing that we are trying to develop an educational program in the United States, it was a good opportunity for us. One of my many goals was to get contacts with different countries already implementing programs in their countries. England, Switzerland and Germany would be my main contacts in this regard. I exchanged this idea in one of the committee meetings to have additional discussions of a national and international platform through the internet to promote discussion and basic education of slate roofing. This is similar to what is being done in England today. We would need to develop a relationship with a university to help teach other educational requirements. The school would provide onsite training with companies. These companies would provide classroom instruction including shop time.

It is my thought and goal that SRCA needs to develop these ideas using the above countries as a model. All these contacts are going to help provide information to develop this program. We would need to overcome some language barriers although Switzerland is working on some translations. We will need to develop a relationship

with a university. I am recommending Green Mountain College in Poultney, Vermont because of their diverse courses and the close proximity to the slate valley and quarries. It is my understanding that our association is not likely to be the funder of this program, but spokesmen for the need of it. It is my thought that we need sponsors to help in the funding of this educational program.

We would want to open the sponsorship to all throughout the SRCA. Looking to these contractors and quarries will be the start. I would suggest looking to some none members too. Like supply companies to help, also getting them to become members in the process. There will be a need for additional sponsors for materials and classroom space as this program progresses. This would be a few years in the making and would need the loyalty of all sponsors to succeed. These sponsors would have additional recognition on the web-site, during events and at the courses.

The first goal would be to research what courses could be offered, develop the educational partnership with the college and AIA, awarding a degree, and gaining the funding through grants from the state and federal educational programs. The second goal would be to have a class with member employees and others interested through educational partners. The third would be to bring small courses to vocational centers in areas throughout the US to increase the interest of young students. These are huge goals and would need someone to oversee this development. This would develop into a full time job. SRCA would have additional responsibilities with the web-site, accounting, and time overseeing information coming in, etc. These ideas are typical in most of the IFD members already and are needed in the states to bring us up to a higher standard of roofing understanding.

Sincerely,

Liam Tower

President CEO of Slate Affair Inc. and
Vice President of Slate Roof Contracting Association of North America, Inc.

