

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE AND NETWORKS

New forms of communities of practice and networks were introduced this year to capitalize on the growing evidence that there are pockets of individuals in various industries, working in many different professions, who wish to network and learn more about quality in particular areas. The new networks cover many industries and topic areas. Quality is indeed becoming part of the business and community fabric!

Here are the networks and communities now offered.

Networks

- Baldrige for Education Network
- Baldrige for Healthcare Network
- Community Good Works Network
- Economic Case for Quality Network
- Insurance Industry Network
- Mentoring Network (for pilot participants)
- NQEC—Continue the Experience Network
- Six Sigma Conference Network
- SOX Network (Sarbanes-Oxley)

Communities of Practice

- Quality Supports and Services for Persons With Disabilities Community
- Member Leader Community of Practice

Additional communities and networks are continually in development.

Blogs Add Dimension to Community Building

Beginning with a pilot program the ASQ blogs were launched within the topics of healthcare efficiency, quality in education, and Sarbanes-Oxley compliance. Throughout the five-month pilot, bloggers Dr. Robert Burney (healthcare efficiency), Jay Marino (quality in education), and John Walz (Sarbanes-Oxley) built an audience for their online journals, proving the importance of continuing this cost-effective communication network. In June two more blogs will be added to the mix.

With many more organizations using the Internet to spread information, blogs become another viable and affordable means to do so. Most important, however, is that all of the information comes directly from the blogger, a member of ASQ.



Membership Roundup

Membership numbers as of March 31, 2006



637 Total Sustaining Members
8 Organizational Members