



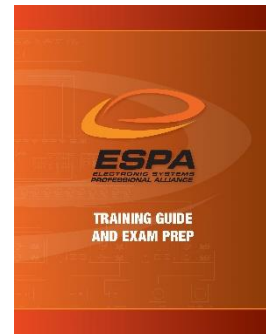
ESPA 2016 Year in Review

January 20, 2017

ESPA has finished its first year with a new full-time executive director, and it has been a very successful year indeed. More awareness, more schools, more exams, more training resources, and plans for even more in 2017.

2016 HIGHLIGHTS

- Exam numbers were up by 35% from 2015.
- Book sales were up 130% from 2015
- The new ESPA Training Guide and Exam Prep book was launched, suitable for both self-study and classroom use
- New PowerPoint presentations were created for use by Authorized Training Partners
- ESPA / Lincoln Tech collaborative participation in six Recruit Military job fairs
- The Lincoln Tech EST program in Union NJ remains the leading training partner; running both day and night classes, administering nearly 150 exams, and recently testing 34 and passing 33 of them, a nearly 100% pass rate!
- Industry Workforce Update released in October – a great resource that underscores the growth in the industry and demand for qualified people. Download [HERE](#):
- ESPA in the news; several articles, interviews, and blog entries in 2016:
 - [COMMERCIAL INTEGRATOR MAGAZINE; HIRING STRATEGIES, CERTIFICATIONS](#)
 - [TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATOR MAGAZINE, ESPA PROGRAM](#)
 - [TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATOR MAGAZINE, INTERVIEW](#)
 - [CE PRO MAGAZINE; MTI SCHOOL LAUNCH](#)
 - [COMMERCIAL INTEGRATOR MAGAZINE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCEMENT](#)
 - Blog entries in the [CEDIA Community](#), and on the [NSCA website](#)
- Exhibited at the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Career Tech Vision conference
- New programs of special interest:
 - Maverick Technical Institute (MTI), Nashua NH – a brand new program launched by a leading CEDIA integrator launched in the fall of 2016. Their two semester training will include ESPA fundamentals as well as much of the CEDIA body of knowledge. Graduates will hold ESPA and CEDIA certifications and be job-ready for a variety of roles in the industry.
 - Orange Technical College, Orlando – Building a brand new Electronic Systems Technology course, one semester, to be offered as an advanced option for students who have already had computer and network training, including A+ and Net+ certification. Area integrators, both residential and commercial, are highly engaged and helping with the program.



- Kern High School, Bakersfield CA – they are starting with an adult track and will add EST to the high school career center offerings next year.
- Roosevelt Warm Springs GA – this is a school for the disabled and they started an ESPA pilot program a few months ago. They will be testing 3 students soon and expanding the program. They are also part of a larger consortium of 8 similar schools across the nation.
- AV Tech, Detroit MI - This is a brand new tech school is founded by a long time industry professional, and will focus directly on audio/video/control etc. They plan to launch their 16 week EST program in the spring and use ESPA as the main certification.
- Central Nine Career Center, Indianapolis is already a training partner, and is planning a fast track EST night school program for career changers.

2017 PLANS

- Creation and launch of an online, self-paced Ecourse which follows the content in the Training Guide and assists in both self-study and formal training
- Update of the certification exam item bank, to ensure that it is aligned with all current codes, standards, and best practices
- Collaboration with training companies who specialize in fast-track sessions, making instructor-led sessions more available in more markets
- Working with NSCA's Education Foundation to provide training/certification packages to veterans who are approved for the Michael Hester Scholarship
- Participating in the creation of a white paper for CABA (Continental Automated Building Association) on the state of the workforce, the need for more qualified people, and how this training and education can better be implemented

NEED TECHNICIANS?

HERES HOW YOU CAN HELP...

ESPA is finally delivering on its promise to raise awareness off the great careers in electronics systems, and bring qualified entry-level ESTs into the industry. But to meet the growing demand, we need many more schools, and many more students who take their skills into the workforce.

While 2016 was a great year, and our plans for 2017 are even more exciting, our most important priority is still identifying and partnering with more career centers and tech schools, in more markets. This is best accomplished when actual industry professionals serve as our “boots on the ground” to make the introduction to a school, and stay engaged with them as they offer training to prepare students for careers in electronic systems of all kinds. Some of the best programs in the country have been launched because integrators went to a school and helped them understand more about the industry and the demand for qualified people. We invite you to help us in this effort. If you know of a school in your area that would be a good fit to provide fundamental training for entry-level technicians (or more), let us know!