



August 2011

What to Expect in the New Fiscal Year

State Purchasing Division's (SPD's) Professional Development staff wants to thank you all for your participation in our training classes and interest in our learning events. This past fiscal year, we concentrated on addressing issues you identified in FY2010: **"We need more training classes close to our location," "We want an extension on the deadline to achieve the Basic Certification and we want some of the certification exams not to be proctored."**

More Training Close to our Locations

In response to your first request, SPD has been scheduling up to three weeks of training classes in a city near you every month. Thus, in addition to Atlanta, training classes were offered in nearly 30 other Georgian cities. Training classes were always well attended, most times, filling a month or two in advance. This new fiscal year, SPD plans to continue the same statewide training schedule.

Your participation in our training events reflects your interest in our learning activities, as over 4,000 attendees participated in our training classes during FY2010. These attendees rated the class content, training environment, training specialist performance and overall training experience with a score of 4.45 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest score. Moreover, many of you took the time to send emails or complete "How's My Service" surveys indicating how pleased you were with our training performance and service. Thank you for your feedback.

Cities Where Professional Development Hosts Training Classes

- | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| -Americus | -Douglas | - Savannah, |
| - Athens | - Eatonton, | -Statesboro |
| - Albany | -Fort Valley | - Tifton |
| - Augusta | - Forsyth | - Thomasville |
| - Bainbridge | -Hardwick | - Vidalia |
| - Brunswick | - Jesup, | - Valdosta |
| - Carrollton | -Kennesaw | - Waco |
| -Columbus | - Lawrenceville | - Waycross |
| - Dalton | - Macon, | |
| -Dry Branch (Macon) | -Milledgeville | |

Extension of the Basic Certification Deadline and Introduction of Non-Proctored Certification Exams

In response to your second request, we extended the deadline for completing the Georgia Certified Purchasing Associate certification (or Basic Certification) to December 15, 2011. We also expanded the new-hire requirements for completion of the Basic Certification to within eight months of hire for all new procurement professionals.

Additionally, with respect to the request for more non-proctored certification exams, we have now made the certification exams for the RFP Template (3015W) and RFP Preparation Scorecard (3022W) training courses available online. You can take these exams on your own time and at your own pace, after completing the training course.

The 2012 Fiscal Year

This new fiscal year brings new courses and a change in format for some of existing courses. Professional Development is planning on changing Legal Issues (7050L) and the Team Georgia Marketplace™ ePro for Approvers (TGM30L) training courses from lecture-based to an online format. You can look forward to a new contract administration training course in the near future as well.

Again, we thank you! Without your participation, interest, and feedback, our efforts would be meaningless.