

I have a PE, why should I get certified as a CCM???

CMAA membership in the Southern California chapter cuts across all segments of the construction industry, and indeed the educational background of our members also spans a wide spectrum. However, if you scan the list of Certified Construction Managers (CCMs), you will notice that few of our members registered as Professional Engineers (P.E.) have pursued that qualification.

As a professional engineer myself, I can understand the reluctance to pursue the CCM on the part of our members practicing in the transportation sector, where a premium value is placed on the P.E. by clients. This year, the CCM Committee will continue to reach out to all of our members, and encourage CCM certification, but this message is aimed at those of you who would normally respond "Why do I need the CCM, I have a P.E.".

Our local members who have both the CCM and P.E. shared why they pursued certification. The reasons range from "pursuing the CCM at the request of my employer" to "separating myself from the crowd", to demonstrating specialization "as a construction management professional". The general consensus is that CCM certification differentiates construction managers from civil designers, and shows a core competence in CM practices that licensure as a Professional Engineer does not.

There was a general recognition among many that I contacted that as the construction management business becomes more specialized, and the consequences of a CM's actions become more critical, the value of certification and recognition will increase until CCM certification becomes the standard that our clients expect and demand. This has already occurred with some clients, including the Los Angeles Unified School District, and the County of San Diego. The CCM committee is here to support and assist you in taking the next step in your career, by obtaining your CCM certification.