

Institute of Public Utilities Sponsors NARUC-Endorsed Certificate of Continuing Regulatory Education

(East Lansing, MI, November 15, 2013) The Institute of Public Utilities (IPU) at Michigan State University is pleased to announce that it is now offering a Certificate in Continuing Regulatory Education (CCRE) to public-sector employees and personnel of nonprofit organizations who complete eligible professional development programs offered by IPU and other institutions. The CCRE is endorsed by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) and is available at no additional charge to registrants of eligible programs.

“Effective regulation depends on informed regulators, and a public-sector or nonprofit employee’s commitment to professional development will now earn a Certificate of Continuing Regulatory Education from Michigan State University,” said Prof. Janice A. Beecher, IPU Director. “We are especially pleased to have NARUC’s endorsement, which reflects our shared mission of promoting regulatory education.”

The CCRE program incorporates some of the most popular educational programs currently offered by IPU, including the Annual Regulatory Studies Program (affectionately known as “Camp NARUC”), the Advanced Regulatory Studies Program, the Grid School, and the NARUC Utility Rate School. For more experienced regulatory practitioners, research, teaching, and publishing opportunities are available for credit toward additional certificate levels.

“I am pleased NARUC is supporting this program,” said Commissioner John Betkoski of Connecticut, the Founding Chair of the NARUC Subcommittee on Education and Research. “With all the outstanding resources available for utility regulators, the Certificate of Continuing Regulatory Education will give NARUC members recognition and personal satisfaction for completing certified education. For regulators to be most effective, we must consistently expand our knowledge base and learn as much as we can. Given the technological and regulatory advances in the utility industries, there is always more we can learn. This program gives us the tools we need to succeed. My thanks to Michigan State’s Institute of Public Utilities for pursuing this effort and to my colleagues on the NARUC Subcommittee on Education and Research for their hard work and commitment.”

Commissioner Jim Gardner of Kentucky, Chair of the NARUC Subcommittee on Education and Research, also expressed support for the Certificate. “The National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners is proud to endorse the CCRE. Ongoing education is a core requirement for economic utility regulators. Through this Certificate, our members will receive tangible evidence of their hard work and desire to keep improving themselves as public servants. The Certificate of Continuing Regulatory Education program, as sponsored by the Institute of Public Utilities, is a significant benefit to our members.”

There is no cost to enroll in the CCRE program beyond regular program fees and no formal testing requirements. Participants are automatically enrolled when they register for an IPU educational course. Credit also will be granted for select programs provided by other universities and professional organizations, including NARUC sponsored or endorsed educational programs. Applicants may receive credit toward their CCRE as far back as 2008.

The Institute of Public Utilities supports informed, effective, and efficient regulation of the infrastructure-intensive network industries providing vital utility services - electricity, natural gas, water, and telecommunications. Please visit ipu.msu.edu for more information. For more information on the CCRE and credit opportunities, please visit ipu.msu.edu/CCRE.