Welcome to the nation’s premiere death care education e-newsletter, dedicated to providing funeral service professionals with a lifetime of learning, news, and insight into transformational education.

From President Lechner:

Even after you have finished your formal education and training, a career as a funeral director requires you never stop learning. In order to provide exceptional care to the families in your community, it’s important to stay up to date with the latest funeral profession news and best practices.

That’s why CCMS is committed to offering such high quality continuing education sessions: We feel that the exceptional curriculum we teach in our associate’s and bachelor’s degree programs should be matched through our continuing education programs. In addition to the convenience - which include both in person and on-line options - our courses are designed to address current and vital areas within the profession and help you maintain licensure. For example, our two-hour Ohio Cremation Law session on Feb. 20 and the Crematory Operator with Ohio Law certification program offered Feb. 21 meet the parameters for the new Ohio Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors statute.

In other cases, our continuing education courses provide insight into certain areas, as participants hear from experts and share best practices. We’re hosting such a session Feb. 20, as Robert Boetticher presents “Planning and Conducting State and Notable Funerals.” During this two-hour CEU course, Robert will share the myriad of aspects that must be considered when planning and conducting state funerals and funerals for notables. Robert knows from experience in his role as a lead funeral director in California and Texas serving state officials and notable clientele such as Billy Graham, Tim Russert, former Presidents Bush, Reagan, and Ford. He will share details related to staffing, multiple destinations, multiple venues, transportation requirements, livery requirements, embalming, transfer from place of death, pre-need meetings, protocol, media considerations, aspects of working with the federal and State government officials, religious considerations, security, and - above all else - the needs of the client family. You won’t want to miss this outstanding presentation!

Details on these upcoming sessions are included in this newsletter; as you can see, February is a busy month here at CCMS and I hope you find time in your schedule to join us!
Students Complete Celebrant Training

Because more and more families are choosing to hold their loved one’s funeral services at the funeral home or otherwise non-religious setting, CCMS offers certified celebrant training as part of the bachelor’s degree program. This unique partnership with InSight Institute is the first such collaboration.

The curriculum covers articulating the Value of the Funeral, Listening Skills, Family Meetings, Service Planning, Music and Readings Resources, Writing, Closing Ceremonies, Master of Ceremonies, Presentation Skills, and Developing the Celebrant Concept in the Community.

A funeral Celebrant serves by providing a funeral service, memorial service, or tribute that is personalized and individualized to reflect the personality and life-style of the deceased after consultation with the family and loved ones and coordination with the funeral home.

Meet the CCMS Board: Frank Rosenacker, Chair

Frank grew up in a family-owned funeral home and his professional career covers both funeral service and law. He graduated from Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science in 1973 and from Northern Kentucky University Chase College of Law in 1983. He founded Rosenacker Law office in 1993 and the firm assists with a variety of complex issues, such as estate planning, probate administration, business organization and tax laws.

He has been involved in all aspects of funeral service, including managing a family business; teaching mortuary science; working for other funeral directors; researching legal liabilities; rewriting Mortuary Law - the leading textbook used in colleges of mortuary science; speaking at local, state and national association seminars on numerous topics; serving as the general counsel of an International company networking independently owned and operated funeral homes; and owning and operating a consulting business exclusively serving funeral directors, funeral homes and cemeteries. His expertise centers on assisting funeral director/funeral home/cemetery clients with various legal, financial and managerial topics, including appraising and evaluating the business net worth of both funeral homes and cemeteries, assisting both cemetery owners and funeral directors in the formation of mortuary cemetery combinations and helping funeral directors/cemeterians with succession plans. Additionally, he served in the Judge Advocate Corp of the United States Air Force where he litigated more than 500 cases.

Frank is busy during his time off with his wife of more than 47 years, Liz, their 3 children and 6 grandchildren.
Join us for TWO continuing education programs this month:

Ohio Crematory Operator Permit
Wed, Feb. 20 from 1:30 - 3:30pm
CCMS, 645 W. North Bend Rd., Cincinnati, OH, 45224

$50; Board compliant, 2 CEU’s, APFSP approved
Last chance to meet the Ohio Board extended deadline for the new Compliance Requirement

Register online today

Crematory Operator Certification with 2-hour Ohio Law Requirement
Thurs, Feb. 21 from 8:30 am - 5:00 pm
CCMS, 645 W. North Bend Road, Cincinnati, OH 45224

$395; Ohio approved Crematory Operator course, Ohio approved 7 CEU’s, meets Ohio 2-hour, Cremation Law specific requirement, CEU’s pending approval in most states, APFSP approved

All Crematory Operators are required to complete this eight hour Certification Program with two hour Ohio cremation law component to apply for a Permit (two separate certificates will be issued). This program includes the mandatory 2 hour cremation law component with certificate.

Register online today

Need help? Have questions? Contact us at coned@ccms.edu or call President Lechner at (513) 618-1923 or Beth Williams at (513) 618-1930.
“Planning and Conducting State and Notable Funerals”
with Robert Boetticher, Sr.

Robert “Bob” Boetticher, Sr. is an American funeral director, best known for the planning and implementation of memorial services for celebrities and notable individuals. He was the lead funeral director and embalmer for the state funerals of George H. W. Bush, Gerald Ford and Ronald Reagan, four First Ladies and has coordinated and directed some of the most visible funerals in recent history for a variety of well-known politicians, cabinet members, business leaders, entertainers and clergy.

With a career spanning nearly five decades, he has become a renowned figure in the death care profession. He is also a nationally known speaker and lecturer, movie and television consultant and contributing writer for professional publications. He is currently President/CEO of LHT Consulting Group, AVP to the Founder & Chairman Emeritus of SCI and also serves as Chairman of the National Museum of Funeral History, a 35,000 sq. ft. facility located in Houston, which houses the country’s largest collection of funeral service artifacts.

This two hour program covers in detail the myriad of aspects that must be considered when planning and conducting State funerals and funerals for notables. A look at behind the scenes of how the team of funeral directors and military personnel trained, prepared and executed numerous funeral services as seen by millions around the world.

Register here to attend

The two hour presentation covers the American history of the funeral components which makes up a State Funeral including:

- Planning Process
- Master Planning a State Funeral
- Training
- The Nation’s Final Farewell to a President
- The Death of a President and White House Support
- History and Protocols of the Components that makes up a State Funeral

Wednesday, February 20        $49 for 2 CEU’s
Two presentation times: 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. or 4 - 6 p.m.
At CCMS, 645 W. North Bend Road, Cincinnati
Questions? Email coned@CCMS.edu or call (513) 761-2020
Insight from 45 Years of Experience

Sometimes teaching is from a textbook and at other times, the best lessons are life experiences shared with others. CCMS President Jack Lechner recently shared his “observations from 45 years in the profession” with students in the spring class of 2020, who are new to the college and the funeral service profession.

President Lechner’s insight and expectations help get the students off to a strong start – and help ensure their long-term success, both academically and professionally. Noting that CCMS is an institution which endeavors to develop professionals who can function with distinction within their chosen profession and within the community of life, President Lechner shared that such education is lifelong and life-changing.

He stated, “What you learn here will be more than your coursework. You will learn about yourself and about who you are as a person. You will hone your interpersonal skills just as much as you develop your clinical skills. The habits you start now will continue throughout your professional career and can greatly impact your ultimate success.”

President Lechner shared numerous tips - from encouraging the students to learn how to manage their financial status to reminding them that social media can have long-lasting effects. Ending on a note of encouragement, he reminded the students to embrace this period. “This time, this education will be what you make of it. The time, energy and passion you exert now will pay off in multiple ways in the future and it’s up to you to make the most of it.”

Welcome to Kevin Brinkman, CCMS Director of Admission

Kevin Brinkman recently joined the CCMS staff at Director of Admission. In this role, he is responsible for working with all incoming students as they enter Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. He assists with questions regarding admission, financial aid, and basic curriculum questions.

Kevin, who has close to 12 years of admissions experience in high education, holds a Bachelors Degree in Sociology from Bellarmine University. He also hold a Masters in Business from Bellarmine University. He is the proud father of 2 sons, enjoys Reds baseball, college basketball, and the perfect pizza!

Kevin can be contacted at kbrinkman@ccms.edu or 513-618-1926.
Open House
Saturday, March 9, 2019 @ 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
Register to join us

Visit CCMS to get the scoop on admissions, financial aid, prerequisites, and more. We look forward to meeting you! (Note: Other upcoming open house events will be held Thursday, June 13 from 4–6 p.m. and Saturday, October 5 from 10 a.m. to noon)

Get Connected to Our Blog & Social Media

#CCMSmugshotmonday
Send us your mugshot! social@ccms.edu
You could be featured on CCMS Facebook!
Need a mug? Shop the CCMS online store!

Shop CCMS Merchandise
Stay warm this winter while still showing your CCMS pride! From knit caps to sweatpants, with several hoodie and long-sleeve options—we’ve got lots to keep you warm!
Shop our online store for authentic CCMS trademark products! Get your CCMS swag here: Shop the CCMS online store!

Did you know….

- All CCMS students receive comprehensive cremation operations training (required in 22 states)
- Students in the Bachelor’s of Mortuary Science program are FEMA trained to serve with Disaster Response Teams, earning professional certification.
Support CCMS

CCMS is unique in that it receives no state or federal funding, outside of the financial aid our students receive for tuition, for its operation. As a result, CCMS heavily relies on support from our alumni, private individuals, corporate partners and members of the Cincinnati Foundation for Mortuary Education. Such generous and continual support is in large part why we have remained successful for well over a century. Giving to CCMS can be done either directly or through ways that can provide tax benefits and even income to the donor, such as a gift through your will, an IRA rollover or other retirement asset, designation gifts, charitable gift annuity or gifts of stocks and bonds. Please contact us at (513) 761-2020 or email support@ccms.edu to discuss which giving options are most beneficial to you and to the college.

Purchase Your Brick and Be Part of the “Pathway to the Future”

A path of engraved bricks will serve as the entryway for the college’s new Educational Cremation Center, linking the current building to the state-of-the-art learning facility. The path connects the past to our future – a way to salute the past, preserve the present and ignite the future.

Commemorative bricks are a great way to honor a significant individual – such as celebrating your year of graduation, recognizing a favorite teacher, or to show your gratitude to someone who has made a difference in your life. It’s a perfect way to create a legacy or to acknowledge someone. The $100 cost includes the brick and 3 lines of permanent engraving; other sizes of bricks and memorialization are available at extra cost. The brick purchase is tax deductible and all proceeds support the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science. For more information or to complete your order, click here.

Shop and Support: Amazon, Kroger Rewards

You can easily support CCMS through AmazonSmile and Kroger Community Rewards!

Every time you make a purchase through Amazon that you would’ve made anyway, 0.5% of your purchase will be donated to CCMS at no cost to you. Click here or go to smile.amazon.com to get started.

The Kroger Community Rewards program is similar to AmazonSmiles, as CCMS receives a portion of most purchases made at Kroger stores whenever folks swipe their rewards card. Click here to login to your Kroger account. Under the “savings and rewards” tab, click on Kroger Community Rewards. Once on that page, you can then search for Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, then click Enroll. Then, whenever you’re shopping at Kroger, just swipe your registered rewards card!