PRESS RELEASE

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February 25, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWCI Launches Online, Bilingual Stucco Training to Meet Evolving Industry Demands

Falls Church, VA—The Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry (AWCI) today announced the launch of its renowned Stucco—Doing It Right® educational program in a new, fully online and self-paced format, now available in both English and Spanish. This significant expansion dramatically increases accessibility for construction professionals seeking to master stucco best practices amid increasingly complex codes, materials and performance expectations.

"Making this course available online in both English and Spanish allows us to meet learners where they are—whether that's a foreman on their tablet in a trailer or a superintendent reviewing installation detail after hours," said Don Pilz, AWCI's director of technical services. "The content is the same high-quality material that has made this course a national benchmark—it's just more accessible now."

Addressing a Critical Industry Need

The Stucco—Doing It Right program idea originated in 2007 in response to widespread construction defects related to stucco installation, often stemming from poor detailing, inconsistent training, and a lack of understanding regarding drainage and code compliance. AWCI convened an oversight group of leading technical consultants, contractors, manufacturers and code experts to develop a structured curriculum based on industry best practices and relevant codes. Since its initial launch in 2008, hundreds of professionals have benefited from the program, crediting it with enhancing jobsite quality, minimizing callbacks, and improving confidence in navigating code compliance and legal responsibilities.

Comprehensive Content for Modern Construction

The program's content is built upon the frameworks of ASTM C926 (Specification for Application of Portland Cement-Based Plaster) and ASTM C1063 (Installation of Lathing and Furring to Receive Interior and Exterior Portland Cement-Based Plaster). It covers installation over both metal lath and solid bases, incorporating critical design and building science elements related to moisture management, thermal performance, and continuous insulation (CI) systems. Participants learn to evaluate system design from both a technical and constructability standpoint, addressing real-world challenges such as transitions, terminations, and maintaining continuity in water-resistive barriers (WRBs).

"Stucco claddings themselves have remained relatively unchanged in their composite of materials and application," noted Albert Carrillo, retired chief executive officer at the Western Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association and subject-matter expert. "Construction has moved from a functional basic design to today's engineered structures addressing energy efficiency, moisture management and new aesthetic styling, requiring a more thorough understanding of the exterior stucco cladding."

Enhanced Accessibility and Risk Management

The move to an online, on-demand format removes travel barriers and seamlessly integrates into busy schedules, allowing companies to train entire teams and standardize practices across crews and project sites. The course also serves as a valuable risk management tool, teaching participants how to document their work, understand assembly evaluations in the field, and implement quality control measures to prevent disputes and claims.

"Specialty contractors have a duty to educate their workforce—both to manage risk and to protect the future of the stucco industry. This course builds the knowledge and pride needed to install quality systems and prevent the failures that can damage stucco's reputation," added Flavio Ronzani, executive vice president, Ronzani, Inc. dba RONPARCO, and subject-matter expert.

Key Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the Stucco—Doing It Right course, participants will be able to:

- Identify key components of different stucco assemblies, including traditional three-coat systems, one-coat systems, and detailing with drainage planes.
- Understand how ASTM standards and building codes apply to various substrates and environmental conditions.
- Demonstrate proper lath installation, embedment, thickness requirements, curing practices, and finish options in accordance with code.
- Apply principles of moisture management, including WRBs, drainage planes, flashing, and weep screeds.
- Reduce risk by applying consistent quality control practices and understanding common causes of litigation in stucco-related claims.

"The evolution of Stucco—Doing It Right into an online, on-demand format marks a significant milestone in AWCI's mission to elevate the wall and ceiling industry through education and workforce development," said AWCI CEO Mike Stark. "By making this trusted training program more accessible—regardless of location, schedule or language—AWCI is equipping today's professionals with the tools and knowledge they need to meet modern construction demands, reduce risk and build with confidence."

Learn more at www.awci.org/education/doing-it-right/stucco-doing-it-right.

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About AWCI
AWCI represents more than 2,500 members and organizations in the acoustics systems, ceiling systems, drywall systems, exterior insulation and finish systems, fireproofing, insulation, prefabrication/panelization and stucco industries. Our members are contractors, suppliers and manufacturers and those in allied trades. Our mission is connecting people in the wall and ceiling industry to innovate, grow and succeed.