

Training for the broadband future

CONFERENCE

By **George Jarrett**

Looking at all the IBC partners in a training context, Anthony Basham, training chair for The Society for Broadband Professionals (SCTE), said: "We all have the same problem. We have training, and we all know we can do really good things, but it is getting it out there. That has been the hardest part.

"But changing to an online system, to a learning management system, gives us opportunity everywhere," he added. "People are not sitting in classrooms any more. Now it is sitting at home, [finding] 10 minutes and going online. It's the big change."

Online does not mean losing the personal link. "You must make sure you retain an open channel to everyone: making sure you have that ability for a person-to-person

relationship," said Basham.

"Lose that and you lose where you are going. You can miss it pretty quickly online, so the feedback loop of having a person on the other end to answer questions is crucial."

What skillsets does the SCTE look for? "People who want to find knowledge, retain it and use it. People who are inquisitive," said Basham. "They must be able to go out and find research for themselves. We are trying to teach people to be in the broadband business. 5G is exploding. We need more knowledge on that."

The IBC partners have worked more closely on skillset issues over the past two years.

"We are all in the same boat," said Basham. "But instead of reinventing the wheel we are helping to make the wheel. If we get a good idea, we pass it on, and someone gives something back."

Every year SCTE needs to



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find thousands of new entrants. "The industry has changed so much and things have been made easier, but we are also losing a lot of people [who can] get the work done. From our side, we are making sure there is communication everywhere," said Basham. "Finding volunteers to train is as hard as finding the students, but there are some people in broadband who love volunteering."

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