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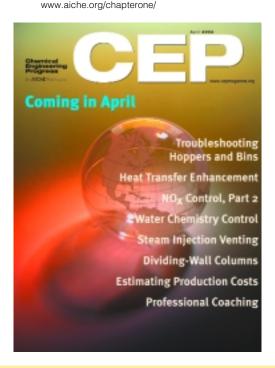
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Letter from the **Publisher**



Redefining the (P

n the January issue of your magazine, we presented a special feature on the evolving nature of the chemical engineering profession. In addition to an historic timeline, we interviewed a dozen practicing chemical engineers in a variety of disciplines. Then we presented findings about where graduating chemical engineers are employed. Finally, we posed this question to our readers — based on the contents of our special report, is it time for a new definition of the CPI?

We received several responses. Our staff expected a bell curve distribution of comments, with some readers strongly in favor of, some strongly opposed to, and the majority neutral about a new definition of our industry. To our surprise, many more comments were positive, i.e., these readers indicated support for a description of their industry that more closely reflects what they do.

Unfortunately, we have not reached consensus on what the new definition of the CPI should be. We posited the notion that "CEI" (chemical engineering industries) might work, since the education and training acquired by chemical engineers are essentially similar, regardless of the industries where they work. We concluded, however, that CEI is not exactly right because many of today's chemical engineers are using their superior analytical and problem solving skills in companies that are neither chemical- nor engineering-based businesses.

We feel that CEP should continue to stimulate conversation and moderate the debate over a new definition of the CPI. We think it is important to our readers, marketing partners and, ultimately, to our industry, to have a clear definition of our identity.

David H. Colby, CBC

Dave Cally

Publisher davec@aiche.org