



FLORIDA ADVANCED TECHNOLOGICAL EDUCATION
CENTER for EXCELLENCE

NEWS from
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

REGIONAL ENERGY CONFERENCE

Defining the future of energy technologies and services in Florida

FLATE, the National Science Foundation (NSF) Advanced Technological Education Center for Florida and Hillsborough Community College jointly hosted the NSF sponsored Regional Energy Industry Forum on June 30. This day-long event held at HCC's South Shore Campus in Ruskin was targeted to identify and define new energy technologies and services in Florida. Facilitated by the NSF Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center (ATEEC) the meeting of energy, industry and education experts was one of a series of 8 energy-related nationwide forums to develop comprehensive regional snapshots of the emerging energy sector.

The central focus for these forums is to identify emerging regional workforce needs for technicians and programs at community colleges that prepare students for renewable energy related careers. Dr. Marilyn Barger, executive director of FLATE said "When ATEEC approached FLATE in February to host a forum, I was very excited. We look forward to integrating our regional snapshot that comes from this event with recent FLDOE and Workforce Florida reports on alternative energy and green jobs to help define student outcomes for career education in Florida."

(more)

1st add Regional Energy Conference

Given the current and near future status of the labor market, discussions focused on assessing the need for previously identified technician-level occupations in the workforce, creating an inventory of existing supporting documentation (labor market surveys, advisory board reports, state workforce development projections, etc.) and adding any missing documentation that could alter the perspective of energy sector workforce needs. The Forum also served as a platform to develop a matrix and regional listing of known current projects, programs, centers, and partnerships supported through private/public funding at local, state or national levels.

Forum data will be used to compile an in-depth listing of predominant regional occupations as well as current regional efforts to achieve technician level standards for licensure or certification in Florida. Forum results will represent Florida's component of a national composite study and serve as a comparison point for a list of training programs and best practices for predominant occupations in Florida.

Cindy Amor, organizational effectiveness manager at TECO Energy in Tampa who also participated in the Forum said "the most valuable part of the forum is that it brought industry and education together to assess the future path of renewable energy in Florida, and determine strategies to prepare workers for the future direction of renewable energy." Amor says the biggest challenge is "interpreting the needs of the industry and integrating it into practical knowledge and skills." She hopes education can meet those needs with better trained; better skilled workers that are prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

For more information about the Forum and/or ongoing renewable energy-related initiatives in Florida contact Dr. Marilyn Barger at 813.259.6577/barger@fl-ate.org.

(more)

2nd add Regional Energy Conference

FLATE is a NSF Regional Center of Excellence, committed to ensuring Florida has a well prepared workforce for advanced and emerging technologies related to manufacturing. Created in 2004, FLATE is one of only 36 NSF Advanced Technological Education Centers focused on improving science, technology, engineering, and mathematics education and training to meet the needs of American advanced technology industries. For more information visit www.fl-ate.org

Advanced Technology Environmental and Energy Center is an NSF Advanced Technology Education Center of Excellence, and is a partnership of the Hazardous Materials Training and Research Institute, the National Partnership for Environmental Technology Education and the University of Northern Iowa. The Center is dedicated to advance environmental and energy technology education through curriculum development, professional development, and program improvement in the nation's community colleges and secondary schools. For more information, visit www.ateec.org.

Hillsborough Community College – Brandon campus serves approximately 6800 students per semester and is home to the college's manufacturing related academic programs and FLATE Center for Manufacturing. HCC is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia 30033-4097, Telephone 404-679-4501) to award associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. For more information, please visit: www.hccfl.edu.

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