ACECET

Alabama Center for Excellence in Clean Energy Technology
Energy is evolving.

As a leader and innovator in the business of energy technology, you are charged with providing our planet the fuel it needs to survive in this new millennium. However, in the 21st Century, acquiring that fuel is a challenging and complex enterprise. Centuries of dependence on fossil fuels has created a vast global demand for alternative energy sources. For the first time in history, we can answer the call to create energy without depleting our invaluable natural resources or harming the ecosystem.

The quest to find new energy sources is a vital one, for sure. Without human ingenuity, however, clean and renewable energy cannot be harnessed and put to use. The business of clean energy will be a lucrative one – morally, socially, environmentally, and economically – and it will be the industry professionals who make it happen.

**It has become clear that the highly trained individuals who design, manufacture, and implement new energy technology are even more important than the energy itself.**

In 2010, the U.S. Department of Labor awarded Calhoun Community College over $3.4 million in order to train students and professionals to meet the needs of the rapidly emerging green energy workforce. Students in the Renewable Energy program will learn and train in the brand new, state of the art **Alabama Center for Excellence in Clean Energy Technology** facility on the Calhoun campus, and will leave Calhoun as certified clean energy practitioners, prepared to excel in this rapidly expanding industry.

Calhoun Community College is looking for partners to get involved in the ACECET project, the only undertaking of its kind in the state of Alabama. In August, 2010, Calhoun will become the first accredited training center for renewable energy technology in Alabama, and will serve as the state’s launching pad for renewable energy professionals. Similar programs in other parts of the country have attracted significant media interest and national publicity – for the participating college and its partners.
US Department of Labor announces more than $225 million in health care and high growth grants
Calhoun Community College to receive over $3.4 million

The U.S. Department of Labor today announced more than $225 million in health care and high growth training grants funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Calhoun Community College is among the institutions and organizations included in the funding and will receive $3,470,830 to train participants through the new Alabama Center of Excellence in Clean Energy Technology (ACECET), to be located at the college’s Decatur campus.

According to the grant, the goal of the ACECET will be to meet regional needs for energy certified practitioners in the areas of energy assessment and energy efficient installation. Calhoun’s award was one of only 55 made from over 1400 proposals submitted nationwide and the only award made in the state Alabama. According to the Department of Labor, the grants will allow community colleges, community-based organizations, state workforce agencies and other public entities to deliver training that leads to employment in a range of health care fields and other growing industries.

“We are tremendously excited about this grant award and what this funding will mean for our region,” commented Calhoun President Marilyn Beck. “This most recent grant marks the fifth major award Calhoun has received from the Department of Labor in as many years, awards now totaling close to $16M dollars,” Beck added.

“The ACECET project is the first of its kind in the state of Alabama leading to an industry-recognized certification and will serve as a national model for community and technical colleges and workforce training providers,” said Debi Garrison, Calhoun’s grants coordinator.

“The Recovery Act’s investments are making a positive difference in the lives of America’s working families,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “The Recovery Act funded grants announced today will ensure thousands of workers across the nation can receive high-quality training and employment services, which will lead to good jobs in health care and other industries offering career-track employment and good pay and benefits.”

While grantees will serve a wide range of workers, each project will focus on targeted regional populations. Calhoun’s award will go toward training displaced, incumbent and unemployed workers for career opportunities in energy-efficient techniques using the combined strengths and specialties of each participating education and industry-partner. Funding will support curriculum development, scholarships, student support services, laboratory equipment, personnel, co-op opportunities and renovations to existing unusable classroom space.

“With these funds announced today, workers in communities hardest hit by auto layoffs will receive additional resources to help them prepare for and find new jobs,” said Dr. Edward Montgomery, executive director of the White House Council on Automotive Communities and Workers. “The president and the administration remain committed to supporting auto communities and their workers.

Today’s announcement marks the sixth and final round of competitive grants made available for employment and training through the Recovery Act. Projects funded through these grants will be conducted in partnership with the public workforce system, businesses and other organizations to guarantee that training leads to jobs. For more information on the range of Department of Labor Employment and Training programs, visit http://www.doleta.gov.

Coverage of this release:

- Grants & Gifts, Community College Week, March 8, 2010, p. 14
- Calhoun Community College gets $3.5 million grant, WAFF, Channel 48, Huntsville, AL, Wednesday, March 3, 2010, 5:00 p.m. newscast
- $3.47M grant clears way for Calhoun energy center, The Huntsville Times, Wednesday, February 24, 2010 issue, p. L1
- Calhoun’s green technology grant, WAAY TV Channel 31, Huntsville, AL, Friday, February 19, 2010, 6:00 p.m. newscast
- Calhoun receives $3.4 million federal grant, The Decatur Daily, Thursday, February 18, 2010 issue, p. A1
- Calhoun receives $3.4M for work-force training, The Huntsville Times, Saturday, February 13, 2010 issue, p. B1
Associate of Applied Science Degree in Applied Technology with a Major in Renewable Energy

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**Short-term Certificate**

**MAJOR PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELT 108</td>
<td>DC Fundamentals</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>ELT 109</td>
<td>AC Fundamentals</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Special Topics in ACR</td>
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<td>Renewable Technology Awareness</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>REN 115</td>
<td>Photovoltaic Systems Principles &amp; Design</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>REN 205</td>
<td>Solar Thermal Principles</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>REN 215</td>
<td>Photovoltaic Systems Installation &amp; Servicing Procedures</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL CREDITS (Short-Term Certificate)** 24