
The Banner Center for Energy is the one-stop shop for energy workforce solutions.



Banner Center for Energy Graduates Find Positions Across the Nation

Thanks to a joint project funded by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), the Banner Center for Energy, and industry sponsors, IRSC launched in 2008 a new Radiation Protection Program under the Power Plant Technology Institute. This initiative responded to a regional need for these technicians established at the national level by the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) in a gap analysis designed to establish a sustainable correlation between industry demand and reliable training programs for these highly skilled technicians.



In addition to the surveys among utilities to establish their workforce needs for the next two decades, the NEI, and the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO) designed, in partnership with utilities, vendors, and colleges, a document to define Uniform Curriculum Guides for Nuclear Power Plant Technicians. This document provides the structure necessary to develop new programs around the country in a consistent, reliable and systematic way, and provides at the end of the program an industry recognized credential for transferability of graduates between colleges and utilities.

Our recent graduates are reaping the benefits of this training. Last week, 100% of IRSC's graduating class of 15 students received high paying job offers from Bartlett Nuclear Inc. as junior radiation protection technicians. This position, with a first assignment in Wolf Creek, Kansas, allows these graduates to work anywhere in the country. The Associate in Science degree in Electrical Power Technology under the UCG program ensures employers nationwide that they have the skill set and training to excel as RP technicians. We wish our 1st graduating class good luck and hope for many more success stories in the future. If you are interested in learning more about the program, please contact the Banner Center for Energy at (772) 462-7575 or on the web at www.bannercenterforenergy.com

Banner Center for Energy Helps Southern Company, Augusta Technical College, and George Wallace Community College Launch Nuclear Training Programs.

The Banner Center for Energy at IRSC hosted a focus group on November 11th and invited Augusta Technical College and George Wallace Community College to attend. Augusta and Wallace were joined by their industry partner Southern Company, which is building two new nuclear power plants within close proximity of the schools. Florida Power and Light was also in attendance and Mr. James Auld (FPL) chair of the Banner Center's advisory board presided over the event.

IRSC welcomed the group and outlined best practices that have made the nuclear education program a success. IRSC provided each school with a toolkit complete with course outlines, learning objectives and outcomes, and course sequencing recommendations. The toolkit included a copy of the UCG matrix detailing specific courses that satisfy the Uniform Curriculum Guidelines. The schools and partner utilities provided very valuable input about the need for power generation technicians, and the promising prospect of a large number of openings in the region in the coming years. The documents shared will contribute to an expedient launch of their respective programs to serve the growing needs of their industry partners.

Dr. Kevin Cooper, Banner Center for Energy Program Manager, shared with the group that Indian River State College may become a National Center for Nuclear Technology Education. “Being able to reach out to fledgling programs and help them become successful is exactly the kind of leadership role we expect to take in the near future. Assisting Augusta and Wallace to develop curriculum allows for consistency across nuclear education programs and generates strong partnerships and cooperation among schools.”

BROWN CENTER FOR INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP TO GENERATE ENERGY EXPERTISE AND NEW JOBS

The College’s newest facility is green all the way. The three-story center now under construction at the Main Campus in Fort Pierce is named in recognition of Mike and Mimi Brown and the Brown family of Fort Pierce in recognition of their long-standing commitment to IRSC and education. The multi-purpose center will prepare students for cutting edge careers in emerging technologies, particularly in energy related fields, and provide programs and services to entrepreneurs and business start-ups gearing up to create new types of jobs.



Scheduled to open in early 2012, the building is constructed to LEED silver standards for green construction. A solar panel field and wind turbines will generate some of the power for the 67,000 square foot building. You’ll pass the electric car charging station on your way to a lobby complete with monitors indicating the amount of energy being generated from different sources and used to operate the building.

Instruction in generation, transmission and distribution will be central to some of the laboratories in this facility. Additionally, alternative energies and Energy-efficient building design will complement the broad range of energy related training designed to support all aspects of the energy sector training needs.

A digital flow loop in the Nuclear Energy Lab will provide students with the technology used in power plants with all the real-world components. Students will learn how to take apart and assemble the equipment under the same rigid protocols used in a Nuclear Power Plant.

The Sustainable Building Design Lab will focus on three important aspects of energy efficiency: Heating/Air conditioning, appliances and efficient energy usage. A portion of a 500-square-foot house will be contained in the Lab as a hands-on resource. Students will use thermal cameras to determine energy leaks, learn how to weatherize and insulate, test for gases, and evaluate hot water and plumbing systems. They will become experts in energy efficiency, well prepared for the highly valued BPI certification.

Students and entrepreneurs eager to transform this knowledge into new businesses will get the help they need from the Virtual Business Incubator to be based in the Center. A “hybrid” of the traditional incubator model which requires a start-up venture to set up shop, the Virtual Incubator will provide guidance, meeting space, workshops and networking opportunities.

DOL encourages applications for Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program

WASHINGTON (MMD Newswire) January 20, 2011 – The U.S. Department of Labor today announced a solicitation for grant applications under the Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant Program. The Labor Department will award approximately \$500 million this year through the program and a total of \$2 billion over the next four years. Grants will support the development and improvement of postsecondary programs of two years or less that use evidence-based or innovative strategies to prepare students for successful careers in growing and emerging industries. The program will be administered by the Labor Department in coordination with the U.S. Department of Education.

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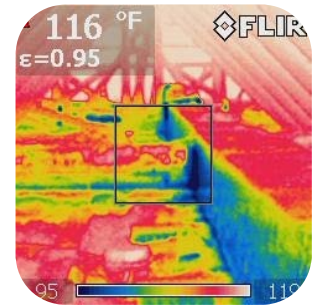
Day Institute at SFCC Explores Green Revolution

By CHRISTOPHER TUFFLEY christopher.tuffley@newssun.com

AVON PARK – South Florida Community College held a special program Friday, a Day Institute sponsored by the Florida Campus Compact, devoted to green revolution, green jobs and green service-learning.

Banner Center for energy's own Kevin Cooper presented on areas to pursue careers in 21st century energy industry.

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St. Lucie County's Green District Begins to Take Form

The green district initiative in St. Lucie County is taking form as the homes are being signed up for energy audits and financing is being finalized. This multimillion dollar initiative hope to optimize over 600 homes in 2011

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Whitehouse Blog: Empowering American Clean Energy and Efficiency Businesses

Posted by [Katelyn Sabochik](#) on January 28, 2011 at 03:30 PM EST

In this week's State of the Union address, President Obama once again made it clear that one of his top priorities is ensuring U.S. global leadership in the emerging industries of clean energy and energy efficiency.

Clean energy not only represents one of the greatest economic opportunities of the 21st century, it is also critical to our nation's ability to reduce our dependence on foreign oil and clean up our environment.

To support entrepreneurs all across America who are developing clean energy and energy-efficient technologies – installing wind turbines and solar panels, developing improved batteries for hybrid cars and putting the pieces of the next generation electricity grid together – the Department of Commerce is focused on several key areas.

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DOE News: Departments of Energy and Commerce Announce New Partnership to Further Cooperation on Renewable Energy Modeling and Forecasting

WASHINGTON - The Department of Energy and the Department of Commerce today announced a new agreement to further collaboration between the agencies on renewable energy modeling and weather forecasting, which will help enable the nation's renewable energy resources to be used more effectively by business and entrepreneurs. The Memorandum of Understanding signed by Acting Under Secretary of Energy Cathy Zoi and Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Jane Lubchenco, Ph.D., will encourage the two agencies to work together to develop and disseminate weather and climate information needed for renewable energy technologies that are dependent on short-term weather and longer-term climate trends. Better information on weather patterns and improved modeling of the variability of the wind, sun, water, ocean currents and other sources of renewable energy will ultimately increase the country's ability to efficiently and reliably integrate renewable energy into the electrical grid.

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