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Lane Community College Awarded ISPQ Accreditation for Renewable Energy Technician Program

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council is pleased to announce that Lane Community College has been awarded the ISPQ Accreditation credential for their Renewable Energy Technician Program. The Renewable Energy Technician program is offered by the Energy Management Program Department which is a component of the Science Division at Lane Community College.

The Lane Community College Energy Management Program offers degree, certificate and customizable business and industry training. Students can earn a two-year Associate of Applied Science degree. In the fall of 2003, the Lane program began offering solar thermal and solar electric system installation courses leading to this degree.

Among other skill sets, the graduate of the Renewable Energy Management Program is able to evaluate the energy use patterns for residential and commercial buildings, recommend energy efficiency and alternative energy solutions for high-energy consuming buildings, and understand the interaction among energy consuming building systems and make recommendations based on that understanding. The graduate of the Renewable Energy Technician option also should be able to size and recommend renewable energy system types for particular situations and understand and put into practice the installation protocol for photovoltaic and solar domestic hot water systems.

Cooperative education is a required and important part of the Energy Management Program. It provides relevant field experience that integrates theory and practice while providing opportunities to develop skills, explore career options and network with professionals and employers in the field.

Roger Ebbage, Director of the Energy Management Program, says "The experience of failed opportunities in the energy industry is the main reason why the Lane Community College Renewable Energy Technician Program applied for ISPQ program accreditation. Past experience has shown that without a comprehensive training platform, long-term customer satisfaction is unlikely."

To ensure continuity, consistency, and quality in the delivery of training, the Institute for Sustainable Power (ISP) developed a framework of standards and metrics, along with a system of review and auditing, to provide a means to compare content, quality, and resources across a broad range of training programs.

The Interstate Renewable Energy Council (www.irecusa.org) is the North American Licensee for the ISPQ International Standard #01021 for the Accreditation and Certification of Renewable Energy Training Programs and Instructors. IREC, a non profit organization, is responsible for the full accreditation and certification cycle including processing applications, assigning registered auditors, awarding the credential, and maintaining all records of applicants, candidates and certificants.

ISPQ credentials for training and instructors are awarded for a 5-year period. At the end of the five years, the certificant must reapply for accreditation or certification status.

For more information about Lane Community College, please visit <u>www.lanecc.edu</u>.

For more information about IREC's ISPQ accreditation and certification programs, please visit http://www.ispqusa.org/.

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The first year curriculum of the Renewable Energy Management Program focuses on fundamentals and includes courses covering physics, residential and light commercial analysis, lighting fundamentals, air conditioning fundamentals, and alternative energy sources. The second year Renewable Energy Technical Program covers electrical theory, renewable energy systems, solar thermal design and installation, solar PV design and installation, and energy investment analysis.###

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