

Palm Beach State to hold low-cost workshops on clean energy careers

***Workshops focus on jobs utilizing smart grid technologies
Tuition waived for first 18 registrants***

(Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. – Feb. 9, 2012) Thinking about a career in the new green economy? Make room in your schedule for a “Smart Grid Workforce Training” workshop at Palm Beach State College.

The workshops are condensed versions of full-length courses developed by the College's Institute for Energy & Environmental Sustainability with the support of the U.S. Department of Energy/Gateway to Power grant, administered by Florida Power & Light. The curriculum is designed to provide information on the skills needed to prepare workers for employability in the new and emerging “smart” energy “grid”—the technology that is changing the face of power generation, transmission and distribution, including the integration of renewable energy and electric vehicle infrastructure.

While the tuition for these short workshops has been purposefully kept low—ranging from \$30 to \$35—tuition will be waived for the first 18 registrants for each workshop, all to be held on the Palm Beach Gardens campus, 3160 PGA Blvd. The current workshop schedule includes:

- “Introduction to Smart Grid: Energy Systems and Career Opportunities” on Feb. 21 and 28
- “Carbon Management: Issues & Solutions” on Feb. 22
- “Home Area Network for Smart Grid Management” on March 19 and 21

Students will gain practical knowledge based on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) standards as applied to the smart energy grid, as well as an understanding of how they can build a career in the modern energy economy.

IEES, established by Palm Beach State to meet the community's need for a highly trained green industry workforce, developed the curriculum under the direction of Dr. Jay Matteson, its director. “Our goal with the short version of the courses is to demonstrate both the technology and the career potential. For unemployed and

underemployed people, taking such a course may get them started in a new career,” says Matteson.

In undertaking one of the largest smart grid deployments in the U.S., FPL recognized the need to train the next generation of electrical power personnel and was awarded a G2P grant in August 2010. FPL selected Palm Beach State to develop smart grid curriculum as part of their G2P consortium of colleges and universities that includes the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, State University of New York at Buffalo, Florida Atlantic University, Florida International University and Indian River State College.

“Smart grid technology”—the new mantra of electrical power generation and distribution—fuses digital capabilities with the old grid infrastructure to enable greater energy efficiency. Smart grids, equipped with smart meters, collect real-time data intelligence about energy usage from every electricity customer, allowing power companies and consumers alike to know how energy is being used. Smart grids also help utilities predict demand shortfalls, isolate outages, and control power distribution from diverse energy resources, including solar and wind.

For more information or to register, call 561-207-5708 or 5709 or visit www.PalmBeachState.edu/IEES.xml and click on “New Workshop Schedule.” The workshop registration form is the second page of the schedule.

Serving more than 51,000 students annually, Palm Beach State College is the largest institution of higher education in Palm Beach County, providing bachelor’s degrees, associate degrees, professional certificates, career training and lifelong learning. Established in 1933 as Florida’s first public community college, it offers more than 100 programs of study at locations in Lake Worth, Boca Raton, Palm Beach Gardens and Belle Glade.

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