

# THE GREENING OF REGISTERED APPRENTICESHIP IN FLORIDA

## *Impact of Green Jobs on Registered Apprenticeship*

Green Seminar Minutes  
Stuart, Florida  
Indian River State College, Stuart Campus  
March 17, 2011

### **The Greening of Registered Apprenticeship in Florida**

This is the seventh of a series of green workshops being held around the state to identify the progress being made in the “greening” of Florida apprenticeship programs. Ironically, we were talking about “Green” Technology with a facilitator name “Patrick” on St. Pat’s Day!

The following individuals representing various governments, industry, construction and affiliations in the Stuart area attended the workshop:

#### **Green Apprenticeship Guest List**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>
Kent Hartwig	Palm Beach State College
David VanCise	Indian River State College – Carpentry
Dave Browning	Florida Masonry Apprentice & Educational Foundation
Gail Craig	Indian River State College
Valvery Hillsman	D.O.E./Apprenticeship

This session was organized by Valvery Hillsman, Department of Education/Apprenticeship Section/Region Representative.

The turnout for this session was lighter than normal. The local apprenticeship program folks did not attend the session with the exceptions of the programs mentioned above.

#### **Introduction to Apprenticeship and the Green Initiative**

Pat McLaughlin, Facilitator, began the meeting explaining what apprenticeship is and how it benefits workforce systems and employees. McLaughlin then described the meaning of the “green economy”. For many of this session’s participants, this was **not** their first foray into the green movement as was the case in previous sessions. However, this was an awareness session for them of the financial opportunities and educational resources available to learn about the green initiatives within the construction and “green” industries.

The green economy is rooted in the development and use of products and services that promote environmental protection and energy security. This is comprised of industries and businesses engaged in:

- Energy efficiency
- Renewal energy
- Preventing and reducing pollution
- Mitigating or cleaning up pollution

There really isn't a separate "green economy" with its own set of industries and occupations. Instead, we have one economy that is becoming greener. Markets may be responding well to consumer demand for more environmentally friendly products and services.

Our state government has also jumped on the green initiative bandwagon. Several governmental bills currently focus on green job training and development:

Green Job Training (Sec. 422) – This bill increases funding authorization for the Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Worker Training Program.

Green Construction Careers Demonstration Project (Sec. 424A) – This bill directs the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary of Energy, to establish a Green Construction Careers demonstration project "to promote middle class careers and quality employment practices in the green construction sector."

Clearinghouse for Vocational Education and Job Training in Renewable Energy Sectors (Sec. 423) – This bill directs the Secretary of Labor, in collaboration with the Secretaries of Energy and Education, to establish a publicly available web-based information and resources clearinghouse.

Clean Energy Curriculum Development Grants (Sec. 421) – This bill authorizes the Secretary of Education to award competitive grants to partnerships for the creation of green curricula.

Low Income Community Energy Efficiency Program (Sec. 264) – This bill authorizes \$50 million for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2015 for a competitive grant program.

McLaughlin then introduced the group to the NCCER – the National Center for Construction Education and Research.

### **NCCER and the Green Initiative**

McLaughlin reviewed a presentation from the NCCER – the National Center for Construction Education and Research. NCCER is a not-for-profit 501 (c) (3) organization affiliated with the University of Florida. It is the leading source of workforce development resources for the construction, maintenance and pipeline industries.

The presentation notes that green jobs will bolster employment in the near future, especially in the construction and manufacturing arenas.

This research also indicates that the following jobs will be required to build the U.S. green economy:

1. Carpenters
2. Heavy Equipment Operators
3. Construction Managers (2)
4. Electricians (3)
5. HVAC
6. Industrial Machinery Mechanics
7. Industrial Truck Drivers (3)
8. Insulation Workers
9. Iron & Steel Workers
10. Metal Fabricators (3)
11. Millwrights
12. Roofers
13. Sheet Metal Workers

**SOURCE:** [www.greenjobsnow.com/hq/Excerpt-Green-Jobs-PERI.pdf](http://www.greenjobsnow.com/hq/Excerpt-Green-Jobs-PERI.pdf)

The six energy efficiency and renewable energy strategies being researched include:

1. Retrofitting buildings to increase energy efficiency
2. Expanding mass transit & freight rail
3. Constructing “smart” electrical grid transmission systems
4. Wind power
5. Solar power
6. Advanced biofuels

**SOURCE:** [www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/green\\_recovery.html](http://www.americanprogress.org/issues/2008/09/green_recovery.html)

The NCCER Green curriculum and resulting Green Advantage certification is available to existing apprenticeship program as an add-on through the NCCER organization.

You may read more about these exciting breakthroughs in the NCCER presentation provided at the end of this report.

The Pinellas Weatherization Training Center was another opportunity presented for existing apprenticeship programs to increase their awareness and involvement in green training. The goals of the Pinellas Center is to train Florida’s workforce for green jobs and assist Florida to meet its goal to weatherize more than 19,000 homes between 2009 and 2012.

The Pinellas program offers three certificate courses:

1. Weatherization Installers
2. Weatherization Building Energy Auditors, and
3. Building Performance Institute (BPI) Field Proctors.

The NCCER and Pinellas programs are examples of fulfilling the goal of these sessions: “For registered apprenticeship to help local apprenticeship “Green” their programs”.

McLaughlin then posed the following questions to the group:

- What are Florida Registered Apprenticeships doing now?
- What are Florida Registered Apprenticeships planning to do?
- What can the Registration Agency do to assist Your Programs?

The discussion of existing participants centered around a review of how the masonry industry is greening their apprenticeship program through education of recycling job site waste materials; Also how IRSC is implementing green technology in their new building and retrofitting existing campus buildings. Mr. VanCise is heavily involved in these initiatives at IRSC and talked about the green examples used in building their new technology center.

Mr. Browning, Florida Masonry Foundation, talked about how we need to educate architects about designing green for the long term and the advantages of thinking long-term design instead of short-term financial savings.

Mr. VanCise told the story that we will continue to go green when gas goes to \$10.00 per gallon and his home electrical bill goes to \$2,000 per month that green technologies will really take off. However, we need to start preparing now for that inevitability now.

Ms. Hillsman reiterated that she will continue to research Green funding opportunities for her local apprenticeship programs.

## **Conclusion**

The participants expressed appreciation for this discussion about the green movement, and all recognized the two key areas as being the environment and energy savings. It is evident that there are a lot of opportunities yet to be tapped within the Martin and St. Lucie area. The key theme was to raise awareness of the green movement – and that was definitely accomplished.

Patrick McLaughlin encouraged participants to research websites on “green construction” for more information, and to please note the website links to banner green centers in Florida that are listed in the handout. One important link is: [www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/education/banner/links.htm](http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/education/banner/links.htm). In addition, the Solar Energy Center is located at: [www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/](http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/).

The last green initiative seminar is planned for June 9, 2011 to be held at the Dave Thomas Education Center, Pompano Beach.

The final report will be completed by June 30, 2011. As we build this program, information will be provided; check our website. There will be lots of opportunities. The slides for today’s session will be e-mailed to all participants.

Respectfully Submitted,  
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