

Wind Energy Technology Program News

cloud county community college



Why Choose Wind Energy Technology at CCCC?

- Kansas ranks 2nd in the nation for potential energy production from wind.
- One of only 7 colleges in the entire nation to earn the AWEA Seal of Approval.
- Only college in Kansas approved to offer an Associate of Applied Science degree in Wind Energy Technology.
- First college in the nation to offer comprehensive Blade Repair and Substation Technician programs, complete with a training substation on campus.
- Operating wind farm on campus that powers the college's geothermal HVAC system and also provides invaluable hands on field training for the students.

Cloud County Community College

Spring 2014

ITC Great Plains presents scholarship check to Wind program

Wind Energy Technology students at Cloud County Community College (CCCC) will benefit from scholarship dollars provided by ITC Great Plains.

This is the second year that ITC has given a scholarship donation to the program. Kim Goodnight, ITC Area Manager, visited CCCC to present the donation to Department Chair Bruce Graham.

CCCC is currently building a substation on campus to be used for Substation Technician training, which is right in line with what ITC is doing; building a new substation in Cloud County that will bring in more property taxes to the local economy.

ITC Great Plains, LLC is a transmission-only utility, which seeks to build a more robust electricity transmission system providing access to reliable, non-discriminatory, competitive and low-cost energy throughout the Southwest Power Pool region. Based in Topeka, Kansas, ITC Great Plains holds transmission-only utility status in Kansas and Oklahoma, with authority to construct, own, operate and maintain a regulated, high-voltage transmission system.



Present for the presentation of the scholarship check were: Nancy Zenger-Beneda, CCCC Dean in the Division of Sciences and Business; Rachel Duffy, CCCC Foundation; Kim Goodnight, ITC Area Manager; Bruce Graham, CCCC Wind Energy Department Chair; and Heather Gennette, CCCC Foundation.



Facility gets High-Tech Composites Lab!

Exciting news this spring for the Wind Energy Technology program is the renovation of the Hanger building. The project began in March and continued through May.

The final product is a state of the art Composites Lab, complete with all the necessary high tech equipment to prepare students for a career in Blade Repair. Wind Energy Blade Repair is a high paying job that is in very high demand. A successful Blade Repair Tech needs to be highly skilled and properly trained in order to return wind turbine blades to engineering specifications when they are damaged, including making the repairs more than 200 feet in the air.

CCCC offers a comprehensive Blade Repair program and Certificate to prepare Wind Techs for this highly specialized field

AWEA Wind Power 2014 Conference

Wind energy instructors Dan Cyre, Monte Poersch, and Randy Gantvoort, along with Department Chair Bruce Graham, attended the AWEA Conference in Las Vegas in May.

They had the opportunity to network with companies in the industry, including GD Energy Services, a company that originated in Spain and now in the United States. Company President Lucas Llado indicated they will be hiring Blade Repair Technicians in the near future, creating another potential employment connection for CCCC WET students.



They also viewed developing technology and areas of growth since last year's conference. The most noteworthy area of growth at the conference this year was the focus on Blade Repair. This growth reflects the need for highly trained and qualified Blade Repair Technicians, and the WET program is at the forefront of the effort to meet this need.

High School Counselors attend Counselor Day

Counselors from across the area spent Earth Day, April 22 at the WET Facilities.

The WET program hosted a Counselor Day for high school counselors and interested students. The day began with a fun and informational presentation from Department Chair, Bruce Graham, followed by a catered lunch and tour of the Hanger building being remodeled and the wind farm on campus.

It was a great way to celebrate Earth Day and we thank all of the counselors and students who attended!





College, program remember former student

On April 21, family, friends, students and faculty gathered at T-Bird Village on the campus of CCCO to dedicate a special space called The Ridge.

The Ridge is in memory of Wind Energy student Ridge Read who passed away on April 21, 2010, as a result of an accident.

Read, Rossville, Kan., was a freshman at CCCO and was just finishing his first year as a student in the Wind Energy Technology program. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped to honor his memory.



Wind Works for Kansas Day

An enthusiastic group of Wind Energy students, faculty and staff as well as interested community members attended Wind Works for Kansas Day at the state capitol in Topeka on February 25.

It was an opportunity to meet with legislators and show support for wind energy in Kansas. The group also received a tour of the beautifully renovated capitol building.

Cloudville Park Project

CCCO students, faculty and staff gathered on April 24 to help bring this kid-dreamed Cloudville Park to reality!

Many Wind Energy students and staff were among the volunteers who braved the cold, rainy weather to be heroes to children in the community.





Where Are They Now?

We have a new and exciting way to recognize Alumni of the Wind Energy program.

This interactive map shows where our graduates are currently working in the industry. You can click on the pins and get more information about what company they are working for and the type of job they are doing. Also included are pins for our students who are currently doing internships. We encourage you to check it out on our Facebook page, Cloud County Wind Energy Technology!

Interested in Visiting the WET Program?

We welcome students and groups to visit the WET program and take a tour of our facilities. We also are available to do tailored presentations for your school or group.

For more information, contact:

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AWEA Annual Report: Good News for Wind Energy

AWEA (American Wind Energy Association) released its Annual Report in April, and there is good news for wind energy.

As 2013 came to a close, there were 905 wind projects across 39 states in the U.S. for a total of 61,110 MW. These wind turbines produced 4.13 percent of the nation's electricity, enough to power the equivalent of 15.5 million homes.

All 50 states now have some form of wind energy activity, from current and emerging wind projects to manufacturing. The AWEA report also stated that current wind energy projects, along with those being constructed, will prevent 115 million tons of carbon dioxide emissions and save 36 billion gallons of water each year. Now that's good news!

Information taken from an April 10 AWEA press release: www.awea.org

