

Green Curriculum Development Forum - Jobs For NJ "Construction Design Build" and "Building Facilities Management"

April 8, 2009 8:30am-12:00pm
in Morristown, NJ, at a LEED Certified Building
Morning Coffee and a Light Lunch Will Be Served
Confirmed RSVP Only Please
to: manager@ipigreencurriculum.org

Project Description

Green jobs are important to America's energy independence and its emerging energy economy. This importance is reflected in federal and state stimulus packages, and in new job creation. It is essential that we develop a pipeline of talented and trained people ready to take on green jobs in construction and in building facilities management.

The focus of this project is to develop curricula that builds on existing curricula, can be rolled out to all of New Jersey's community colleges, fills a gap between traditional and green approaches, and that will fit within the continuum of high school, community college, and four year college education. The focus of this forum is on the discipline of Building Facilities Management. Comments also may be made on the Construction portion of the curriculum. The challenge is to determine what topics and courses should be included in these programs.

Green Curriculum Development Forum

The Green Curriculum Development Forum will be facilitated by Ms. Jennifer Cleary, Senior Project Manager at The Heldrich Center, Rutgers University. Ms. Cleary has an extensive background in workforce development on the topic of green jobs development. She will lead a discussion to garner thoughts and ideas from those active in the property management field, and specifically those with some background in energy efficiency and sustainability, and other interested parties.

The goals of this forum are to:

1. Obtain "real world" opinions as to what skills and knowledge are important to building a career in building facilities management, including a typical career path.
2. Highlight the similarities and differences between a traditional and a green/sustainable approach to building facilities management activities.
3. Inventory the skills and knowledge that should be taught in a green/sustainable community college curriculum.
4. Outline valuable courses and topics for green/sustainable building facilities management.
5. Provide a job outlook for various career path options, with and without green/sustainable skills and education, including at your own organizations.
6. Come up with naming options for this program.
7. Get to know each other for future collaboration in job creation, education, and upgrading the green/sustainable quotient of the industry.

Course Background

The project's goal is to develop / offer four to five new courses, or 12-15 credits, which will constitute a Certificate in Green Building Management (name subject to change). These same courses should fit into an Associates Degree program in engineering or business and should be acceptable for credit transfer to a four year school. A further goal is to introduce green units into existing courses. For example, the business course "Purchasing and Procurement" could have a unit added on how to procure materials for green projects.

As a reference point, the following are the credits involved in a typical Associates Degree program:

General Education Requirements:	33-35 Credits
Major Course Requirements:	13-16 Credits
Additional Course Requirements:	17-24 Credits
Total Credits:	65-75 Credits

We will provide a "straw man" curriculum that incorporates likely material as a starting point at the Forum.

Conclusion

Essex County College is the project lead with assistance from many grant partners, and particularly with the support of the John J. Heldrich Center for Workforce Development and the Center for Energy, Economic & Environmental Policy(CEEEP), both a part of the Edward J. Bloustein School of Planning and Public Policy at Rutgers University. This project is funded through the New Jersey Commission on Higher Education through an Innovation Partnership Institutes(IPI) grant.

We invite interested people to attend by contacting the project manager, John Vadnais, at manager@ipigreencurriculum.org.