



NEWS RELEASE - APRIL 2, 2008

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Sierra College Awarded \$468,600 for Photovoltaic Installer Training Partnership with Roseville and Nevada County Economic Resource Council will Train “Green Collar” Workers for Capital Region

SIERRA COLLEGE CAMPUS, ROCKLIN, CA – Sierra College has been awarded \$468,600 in Industry Driven Regional Collaboratives (IDRC) funding by the California Community College Chancellor’s Office, to develop a Photovoltaics Technician training program. This grant will play a key role in educating the future “green collar” workforce for solar companies, contractors public utilities and local governments in South Placer, Nevada County and the Sacramento region.

Dr. Leo E. Chavez, Superintendent/President of Sierra College stated “We are pleased to have this opportunity to partner with the City of Roseville and the Nevada County Economic Resource Council to develop and offer this program. Working closely with our community is an illustration of what we do best - respond rapidly to the need for targeted training in an emerging technology. It is a vital part of our mission to contribute to the economic health of the region, by assisting businesses, training potential employees, and partnering with civic leaders. This is a great example of why investment in your local community college makes sense.”

The \$468,600 grant required a dollar for dollar in-kind match in order to be eligible. The City of Roseville and a company in Nevada County will both provide locations for laboratories to conduct hands-on training essential to the photovoltaic industry. The City of Roseville facility will also be used to offer training for building inspectors and area firefighters in providing essential public services for developments built with photovoltaics. Solar companies, the North State Building Industry Association, the Nevada County Contractors Association and the area’s three utilities – Roseville Electric, PG&E, SMUD will all participate in supporting the program. Total investment by the region in the Sierra College program with the in-kind matches will be just under \$1 million.

“We are excited to be offering this innovative instructional program to meet the needs of employers in the region. This grant funding is the direct result of support from our industry partners who described the need for a trained workforce and will be critical partners in developing the curriculum. We look forward to graduating our first cohort and placing them in positions that will grow our economy and support the region’s renewable energy investment, said Stephanie Guevara, Dean of the Business and Technology Division at Sierra College.

The demand for trained workers in this emerging sector is the result of state programs including the California Solar Initiative approved by the California Public Utilities Commission on January 12, 2006. The initiative creates a \$3.3 billion ten-year program to put solar on a million roofs in the state. Based on both industry and academic research, employment must grow by thirty percent (30%) to meet the state mandates and local building demand.

Roseville Mayor, Jim Gray offered his congratulations to Sierra College. “I am pleased celebrate with you and to reaffirm the City’s commitment to the success of this new training program. We are proud to be your partner and the future host of the “hands on” training laboratory. In addition to the State’s Million Solar Homes program, local governments also have a number of renewable energy initiatives. For example, the City’s BEST Homes program seeks to ensure that 10-20 percent of all new homes are designed to substantially reduce home electricity bills. We need a skilled workforce, trained locally, to meet this goal, attract more companies to the region, and do the right thing by investing in renewable energy.”

Industry partners who have pledged materials, equipment, and time participating in the Sierra College Solar Advisory Committee include:

Sierra College	City of Roseville
HCM LLC	Solar Power, Inc.
North State Building Industry Association	SCHOTT Solar
Nevada County Contractor’s Association	Williams + Paddon Architects + Planners
CA Solar Electric Company	Pacific Gas & Electric
Plan It Solar	Treasure Homes
PowerUp-NC	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Self-dog Partners	HDR, Inc.
SMA America	Sierra Solar

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