



Media & Community Relations

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GCCC Goes Green and High-Tech with New Program Offerings

Meeting increased demand for skilled workers in the growing field of Alternative Energy

Panama City, FL - This fall, GCCC's program offerings have expanded to include several innovative new programs designed to respond to a growing interest in new alternative energy technologies.

The Gulf Coast Technology Division is leading the way with a new **Alternative Energy Engineering Technology (AET) certificate program**. The program offers students three core courses in sustainable and renewable energies and three applied courses working with instruments and equipment. The main focus is centered on solar power, but biofuels, biomass and geothermal power will be studied as well.

The Alternative Energy Technology program is an 18 credit technical certificate program designed to provide students with a foundation in the study of alternative energy. The courses are also offered as continued education for professionals who are seeking advancement or specialization in alternative and renewable technology. The program will provide hands-on experience for engineers and contractors as it relates to the energy rating of buildings and EPA requirements for new construction. According to Antonio Adessi, assistant professor with GCCC's Business and Technology Division and advisor for the AET program, future plans include expanding the program into a full associates in applied science degree as well as developing a Sustainable Design Technical Certificate Program.

"In our five-year strategic plan, it was our goal to create new programs to serve our region, especially geared toward high paying and high tech jobs," said Dr. Jim Kerley, GCCC President. "Many of these programs will complement our new state-of-the-art Advanced Technology Center."

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