



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TRAINING PROGRAM TO SUPPORT NORTH IOWA GREEN JOB MARKET

Residential energy auditing and weatherization training program offered by North Iowa Area Community College

The North Iowa Energy Sector Team, led by North Iowa Area Community College (NIACC), has partnered with CleanEdison to launch a green job-training program for individuals in the North Iowa area. The training courses are designed to stimulate the regional economy and upgrade workers' job skills to meet the needs of the flourishing green economy.

"We are thrilled to announce this partnership with CleanEdison," said Terry Schumaker, Dean of Continuing Education at NIACC. "CleanEdison is the leading expert in green training and the partnership we have forged with them will make available to North Iowans the training they need to enter the green job market or to upgrade their current skills to be more successful in this high-growth industry that is making homes in our community more energy efficient."

Scheduled to begin in mid-September, students who complete the training will become either:

- ***Building Performance Institute (BPI) Certified Building Analysts***, qualified to perform energy audits to determine how much energy a home is wasting without proper insulation or duct sealing, or
- ***Insulation and Air Sealing Specialists*** who can take part in the work necessary to effectively weatherize homes. These efforts can help homeowners save as much as 30 to 40 percent on their monthly utility bills by utilizing the proper retrofits. The combination of classroom practicum and hands-on field training will enable training participants to quickly transition into the expanding green job market.

"The price for the five day trainings, such as these, usually cost between \$1,500 and \$2,000," Schumaker said. "With the grant funds we have secured we are able to offer the Building Analyst training for \$179 and the Insulation and Air Sealing training for \$199. The grant funding is allowing us to bring top notch training to North Iowa for an outstanding price." Continuing Education Units for the training are available from variety of issuing bodies for those currently engaged in the HVAC industry as well as other professions.

Last fall, the North Iowa Energy Sector Team was awarded an American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) High Growth and Emerging Industries Grant from the State Energy

Sector Partnership to fund different “green” initiatives. North Iowa’s was one of 13 grants awarded across Iowa. The focus of the grant is to provide certified Energy Audit and Assessment Training to 140 individuals over the life of the grant.

Those interested in learning more about the training opportunities should contact John Sjolinder in the NIACC Continuing Education Division: 641 422-4352.

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