Developing Energy Efficiency Professionals

What is DEEP?

DEEP is an employment development program that trains and educates California Community College students in the areas of energy efficiency and demand side reduction through classroom learning, projects, and outreach within the campus community. Along with preparing students for green careers, the program will produce reductions in operational costs for California Community Colleges by promoting the understanding of demand response, resource conservation, and carbon emission reduction.

Where is DEEP now?

Launching in Fall of 2011, the DEEP Program pilot will begin at three California Community College Campuses including:
- Citrus Community College, Glendora;
- Mt. San Antonio College, Walnut; and
- El Camino College, Torrance.

Creating New Opportunities In Energy Efficiency.

Three Program Goals

Promote Sustainability and Efficiency Awareness
DEEP students will learn about sustainable lifestyles and promote what they have learned.

DEEP students will be guided by program coordinators, faculty and administrative staff on campus. They will familiarize themselves with current on-campus practices in building construction, recycling, green procurement, and renewable energy. They will work to integrate new concepts of sustainability into existing classes. DEEP students will provide the link between campus sustainability, academic infusion of sustainability concepts, and the green workforce.

Engage Students with Hands on Learning & Promote Peer-to-Peer Learning Opportunities
DEEP students will work closely with stakeholders and organizations on campus to create and implement energy efficiency projects, and conduct outreach campaigns. These guided efforts will work toward providing students with a hands-on experience, bring the campus realized energy saving opportunities, enhance building performance, and provide multiple other benefits.

Provide Green Workforce Exposure and Real World Experience
DEEP students will have opportunities to be exposed to domestic and international companies. They will develop relationships to future careers via interactions with companies such as Chevron Energy Solutions, ACCO Engineered Systems, Powersmiths, Lime Energy, Siemens’s Industry Inc, Sunflower, Growing Energy Labs, Honeywell Building Solutions, and Growing Energy Labs.

Students will be exposed to the benefits of transferring to four year colleges and learn how their educational interests relate to professional careers in energy.

Program Approach

The DEEP Program is primarily student-driven and allows valuable innovators to take an active role in driving Community College campuses to meet the needs of the developing green economy.

An effective Peer-to-Peer teaching model is encouraged. This allows students to teach others about energy and exponentially increases campus-wide energy awareness.

The recruitment, screening, and participant selection will be facilitated in close collaboration with participating campuses and the Foundation for California Community Colleges. All employee relation issues will be managed by the Foundation’s Human Resources Department utilizing the SAGE system. Each selected school will receive funding for forty hours per week to be distributed among four to six part-time DEEP students. Positions will be allocated $10 per hour for an average of approximately 10 hours per week for the duration of program participation.

Student participants will work collaboratively with key stakeholders to create campus-wide goals and create a customized list of strategies to achieve those goals. Each team will assign roles and responsibilities to respective members.

In addition, teams at each campus will have an operating budget for use of purchasing project materials, outreach campaigns, and promotion of on-campus events.

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