

ITEM 144-2851+R0809

**Authorization to offer a Temporary Certificate of Applied Science in Industrial and Energy Technology; MSU – Great Falls, MSU – Northern, MSU – Billings College of Technology, and Montana Tech College of Technology**

**THAT:**

The Montana Board of Regents approves Montana State University- Great Falls College of Technology (MSUGF), Montana State University – Northern, Montana State University – Billings College of Technology, and Montana Tech College of Technology to offer a Certificate of Applied Science in Industrial and Energy Technology. The Colleges are requesting this program through the Level I approval process so two of the partner campuses, MSU – Northern and Montana Tech COT, can begin offering the program in Fall 2009.

**EXPLANATION:**

Four Montana University System institutions (Montana State University-Great Falls College of Technology, Montana State University-Northern, Montana State University-Billings College of Technology and Montana Tech-College of Technology) joined together in a Wind Energy Technology Consortium. The Consortium received a grant from the Department of Labor to develop programs in Industrial Trades and Renewable Energy Technology with specific development of an AAS degree in Wind Energy Technology. These programs are to be supported by a common first year- the CAS in Industrial and Energy Technology.

Subsequent to the publicity regarding the wind energy grant, the Consortium institutions have been receiving numerous phone calls from students and employers about this program. Given the demand from the public regarding renewable energy education, the institutions felt it was important to move forward sooner rather than later. To that end, the Consortium partners,utilizing the FLOC process developed and coordinated by OCHE, have created a common Certificate of Applied Science program.

To support the forward movement of the foundational common first year, the institutions are requesting approval by the Montana Board of Regents to offer a Certificate of Applied Science in Industrial and Energy Technology. Due to immediate demands, the Colleges are requesting this program through a Level I approval process to expedite its implementation on two of the partner campuses, Montana State University-Northern and Montana Tech-College of Technology.

As mentioned, the final CAS program will be commonly named and numbered. At this writing, the related instruction courses have been through the official common numbering process. Existing foundational program specific courses are not commonly named and numbered. However, that process is expected to be completed during the 2009-2010 year. For ease in understanding the course content of the program as it will be fast tracked according to this proposal, a reference grid is attached to the level I request.