

ITEM 146-2855-R0310

Authorization to offer a Certificate of Applied Science – Sustainable Energy Technician; MSU-Great Falls COT, MSU-Northern, MSU-Billings COT, and Montana Tech COT

**THAT:**

The Montana Board of Regents approves 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 (hereinafter the partner campuses) to offer a Certificate of Applied Science - Sustainable Energy Technician. The partner campuses received temporary approval of the Certificate of Applied Science in Industrial and Energy Technology through the Level I process in August, 2009. We request formal approval to:

1. Change the name of the Certificate of Applied Science in Industrial and Energy Technology to the Certificate of Applied Science – Sustainable Energy Technician.
2. Receive authorization to offer a Certificate of Applied Science – Sustainable Energy Technician at each of the partner campuses identified above.

**EXPLANATION:**

In the summer of 2009, the partner campuses joined together in a Wind Energy Technology Consortium, the Wind Montana Project. The Consortium received a grant from the Department of Labor to develop programs in Industrial Trades and Renewable Energy Technology. The partner campuses formed an Academic Implementation Team that partnered with the Wind Montana Project Industrial Advisory Board to develop curriculum for the project.

At the August 3, 2009 meeting, the Board of Regents authorized the partner campuses to offer the Certificate of Applied Science in Industrial and Energy Technology. That common CAS program is being offered on two of those campuses – MSU-Northern and Montana Tech COT. The other two partner campuses will begin offering the CAS fall 2010.

In addition to several course and competency changes to the CAS, the Industry Advisory Board suggested a program name change to “Sustainable Energy Technician.” There are two reasons for the change:

- Program outcomes are broad based and apply to employment in numerous areas ranging from traditional energy (transmission, power-plants, etc.) to renewable fields such as wind, solar, and geothermal. Graduates may also find employment in many industrial settings because of the broad base of trades skills they will learn.
- The word “technician” in the program title identifies program graduates as field technicians. The Industry Advisory Board emphasized the importance of differentiating it from “energy technology” which is typically used for engineering programs.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Proposal  
Set Fee Requests