

Community College Energy Workshop, Sept. 26, 2011 at Santa Fe College



FLATE Pre-Summit

The Florida Energy Systems Consortium's (FESC) Pre-Summit Energy Workshop, hosted by The Florida Advanced Technological Education Center (FLATE) and the Banner Centers for Construction, Clean Energy and Energy, took place at Santa Fe College Center for Economic and Innovative Development in Gainesville, September 26. The workshop gathered individuals from academia, industry and government to continue the work of forging strong, lasting partnerships essential for Florida's decisive move toward a sustainable future.

Following the welcome and introduction by Dr. Tim Anderson, Director of FESC, participants learned about the results of a statewide Green Jobs Survey (funded in 2009 by the U.S. Department of Labor). Attendees also learned about green job training skill gaps from Ms. Vesselka McAlarney of the Florida Agency for Workforce Innovation. Ms. Kathryn Frederick of the Florida Department of Education gave an Energy Cluster update followed by updates from the Banner Center and FLATE provided by Ms. Colleen Kettles (Florida Solar Energy Center) and Dr. Marilyn Barger (FLATE), respectively. Additionally, Tom Lane, President of Energy Conservation Services, was also on hand during registration and lunch time to share his new book, "Solar Hot Water Systems – Lessons Learned 1977 to Today" and new Teacher Resource guide. Free books were provided to the educators upon request.

During lunch workshop participants were treated to an informative and exciting presentation – "POWER UP! Preparing Florida's Students for Tomorrow's Economy through Partnerships" by Ms. Carol Higley of the Jacksonville Electric Authority and 2011 Co-Chair of the Florida Energy Workforce Consortium. College energy program updates followed, after which Mr. Kurt Morauer of the Banner Center for Construction talked about Residential Energy Efficiency and Weatherization. Dr. Tim Middlekoop of the University of Florida's Industrial Assessment Center provided information on Industrial Energy Efficiency, followed by a FLUKE demonstration and hands-on activity conducted by Mr. Ed Pucetas, Fluke Calibration.



Ed Pucetas

Feedback received about the event was overwhelmingly positive. A similar event is planned for next year as energy-related workforce and training needs continue to grow in Florida. Separate feedback for the hands-on workshop in the afternoon was also very positive. Faculty and teachers all enjoyed using the remote sensing equipment to visualize heat patterns and visualize temperature profiles in the meeting room.