The Boston Globe

You Can Have A Green Job in Two Years

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(EMAILWIRE.COM, December 07, 2009) Fort Lauderdale, FL The Obama administration, is investing $12 billion in two-year community colleges as part of its recovery strategy to boost the ailing economy.
Community colleges have for a long time been known for producing second-class-citizens unlike the private colleges which offer similar degree programs, like BS in Information Technology, but end up producing the crme de la crme of graduates. This is no longer the case, since community colleges are now regarded the top tier after taking appropriate action and concentrating on training students for new green economy jobs.
Administrators at two-year schools, which are estimated at around 1,200 nationwide, have recently been adding green' certification programs in almost every facet from wind technicians to solar cell designers to energy auditors, in order to stay abreast with the demands of the dynamic job market; these changes have led to unprecedented increases in the number of student enrollments in such institutions.
According to Sheila Danzig, founder of Degree.com, http://www.degree.com, the premier internet portal for online study: part of the increase in demand for junior colleges may be attributed to the recession. Many students can no longer afford pricey four-year colleges and are opting to attend two-year degree programs instead, she said.
The Obama administration has placed the 1,200 two-year community colleges in the country at the heart of its recovery strategy and is investing $12 billion over the next ten years to help modernize the system and perhaps develop accredited distance learning programs.
Notably, community colleges have also been deft, responding to the changing job market faster than their four-year counterparts. The logical shift is justifiable since junior colleges are now able to produce graduates for practical professions instead of being stepping stones to four-year degrees.
Mindy Feldbaum, the author of "Going Green said that community colleges stand a better chance at gauging the changing economy due to their close ties with industry groups and potential employers. . "They really understand the labor market and where there's demand," she says.
Partnerships between junior colleges and junior colleges have begun and are evident around the country: In September, IBM in a press release announced that it would partner with Metropolitan Community College, Omaha to create a green data-center management degree, providing hardware and course materials.
GE recently donated a small-sized wind turbine to Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, N.M and has pledged to hire graduates of the school's recently added wind energy technician program. Johnsons Controls, an industrial giant in Milwaukee Area is constructing a 2,500-panel solar education farm for the Milwaukee Area Technical College where students can train to become photovoltaic installers and designers. Apart from providing infrastructure, the industrial giant is also building a pipeline of potential employees. Johnson Controls' headquarters is nearby, and it's looking for thousands of people," says Joseph Jacobsen, Milwaukee Area Technical's associate dean of environmental studies. "The baby boomers are retiring, and it's going to need new employees."
With the dynamic job-market going green, the two-year schools which have quickly implemented programs to produce graduates in the various eco-fields, a tremendous drop will soon be recorded in enrollment in four-year colleges should they not implement such programs.

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