

March 15, 2007

07-059

AUTHORITY TO APPLY TO THE STATE BOARD OF
EDUCATION FOR APPROVAL OF THE AAS DEGREE
AND ONE YEAR CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION:
RENEWABLE ENERGY TECHNOLOGY COLUMBIA
GORGE COMMUNITY COLLEGE AND PORTLAND
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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REPORT:

The proposed program will allow students to pursue an AAS or a Certificate of Completion in Renewable Energy Technology. Columbia Gorge Community College was contacted by the Mid-Columbia Council of Governments in 2006 regarding grant funding to conduct a feasibility study for the wind energy industry and to create curriculum if a need was identified. As a result, a wind energy consortium was formed and it was determined that a need existed to develop a program to train technicians. A curriculum was developed for a six-month, non-credit pilot program while the AAS degree and certificate were in the development phase.

Columbia Gorge Community College has identified an external advisory specific to the industry. The Subject Area Committee (SAC) includes faculty representation from PCC's Electronic Engineering Technology program.

Students in the PCC district will have the opportunity to complete the required electronics course work and general education requirements here. Program-specific course work related to renewable energy technology can be completed at Columbia Gorge.

Upon completion, students will be prepared for entry- and mid-level technician positions with renewable energy companies, engineering, and manufacturing firms.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the College be authorized to submit an application to the State Board of Education for an AAS degree and one year certificate of completion in Renewable Energy Technology on behalf of Columbia Gorge Community College.