



BCC is Now Providing Training from the NAA-EI National Apartment Association Education Institute

Written by: Jamie Kerr

When we all go to work we often forget about the most important aspect of our jobs, the building we work in. The buildings or facilities often go unnoticed until something breaks down or malfunctions. A work order is put out to the maintenance crew to get it fixed. What happens when the maintenance person can't fix what needs to be done due to lack of training? Another and more expensive work order is submitted to get it fixed.

The BCC has partnered with the National Apartment Association to help solve this problem. The development of a new Facilities Maintenance curriculum with a National certified credential achievement opportunity will allow the participants to handle these types of situations. This program allows maintenance workers get the necessary training and hands on know how to handle these situations

firsthand.

The CAMT—Certificate for Apartment Maintenance Technicians training trains for the multiple aspects of what is necessary to successfully run and



(Training Participants)

maintain an apartment/facility. These skills range from plumbing to people skills. The NCCER course – Your Role for the Green Environment and OSHA 10 hour Construction training are also combined steps to provide the best possible training in the Florida workforce.

The training curriculum will be the future premiere stage for employment of facility maintenance technicians. Employers can be rest assured that the people whom they're hiring with this training will be competent and qualified to handle work order loads. ■



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Developing Florida's Weatherization Training Center

Written by: Kurt Morauer

The University of Florida's Program for Resource Efficient Communities (UF/PREC), in partnership with the Employ Florida Banner Center for Construction (BCC) at Santa Fe College is establishing the Florida Weatherization Training Center to support ongoing efforts to maximize energy savings, minimize costs and stimulate green job creation related to Florida's Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). Established field training curricula utilizing both DOE standardized materials and Florida-specific training modules will be integrated, beta-tested, and launched.

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First Ever U.S. Solar Jobs Census Solar Employment on the Rise

*The Solar Foundation
PRESS RELEASE - October 13, 2010*

The Solar Foundation, a nonprofit solar education and research organization, recently released a first-of-its-kind review of the solar workforce in the United States. The report, titled, "National Solar Jobs Census 2010: A Review of the U.S. Solar Workforce" found that hiring in the solar workforce is on the rise. More than half of solar employers nationally plan to increase their workforce in the next year.

"Among other things, this study shows

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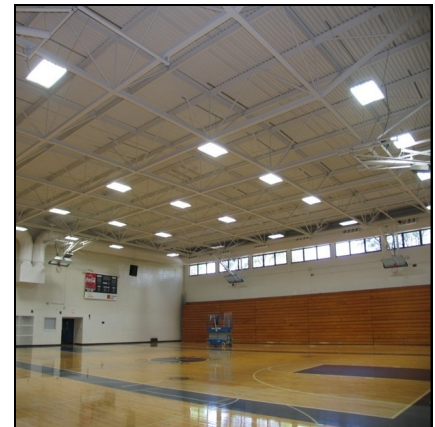
Energy Consumption at Santa Fe College

Written by: Bill Reese - Associate VP for Facilities Santa Fe College



(Before: 27.1 KW at 18-24 Foot Candles)

Although Santa Fe College has maintained a five-year history of lowering electrical energy consumption each year on their Northwest campus they have not stopped there but have taken the next step into renewable energy. To date they have installed four solar powered systems on campus; two solar thermal and two solar photovoltaic. Both photovoltaic systems are tied into the Gainesville



(After: 8.9 KW at 40-60 Foot Candles)

Regional Utilities (GRU) grid. The college's success in energy conservation has been due to a continuing legacy of in-house retrofits such as the re-lighting project in the northwest campus gymnasium.

That success is also due to strict adherence to energy saving standards during major infrastructure projects such as the tower replacement project on the northwest campus. In 2007 a solar workgroup was formed to study the potential for a renewable energy source on campus. That group was comprised of Facility Service staff, students, GRU staff and the college's minor project engineer

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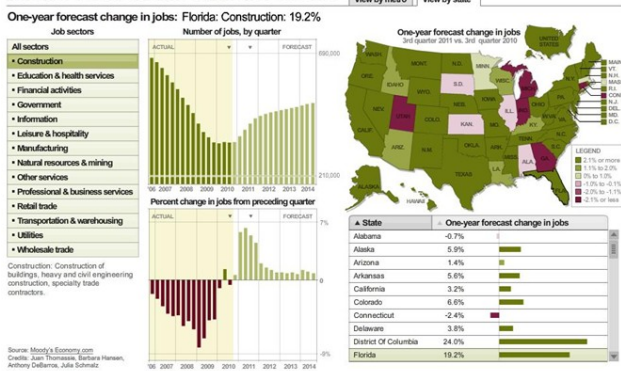
Jobs Rebound How Jobs Forecast was Done

As Reported in: USA Today

Economic consulting firm Moody's *Economy.com* has forecasted U.S. job growth by geographic region and by industry. This regularly updated graphic shows actual job growth through first-quarter 2010 and Moody's *Economy.com*'s forecasted job growth for second-quarter 2010 through first-quarter 2014. It covers every state, the District of Columbia and 384 metro areas, broken down by fourteen industry sectors. The data is also seasonally adjusted.

National, state and metro data through first-quarter 2010 are averages of monthly data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey.

Jobs rebound will be slow



The CES survey tracks the number of people employed full and part time by industry. It excludes proprietors, self-employed people, unpaid family or volunteer workers, farm workers and domestic workers. Government employment covers only civilian workers. Employees are counted where they work, not where they live.

Demographic trends such as population growth, migration patterns, the age composition

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CTEF Wins Tampa Bay Technology Award

*Written by: Kevin Gay
Director of Education and Training
Career Technical Education Foundation*



Paul Whish, president of Career Technical Education Foundation (CTEF) was honored to receive recognition at Tampa Bay Technology Forum (TBTF) as an Industry Achievement Award winner. Over 500 business and technology leaders attended the November 12th black tie gala to honor the very best in technology in the region. CTEF won the **Community Supporter of the Year Award**, as an organization that has made a significant impact on advancing STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) initiatives and educational programs in the region.

While the craft and technical pool of candidates are waning in Florida and throughout the United States, Paul Whish, a name synonymous with programs like "STEM" (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics), Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and the Founder and President of Career Technical Education Foundation (CTEF), is on the path of helping high schools develop craft and technical career academies. CTEF uses the industry certifications and curricula designed by

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OSHA 10 Training Important Changes

*Written by: Peter Altuch
President, HR Training University*

The OSHA 10 training program (also known as the OSHA Outreach Training) is the single most popular course for safety training in the US. This course is mandated in a number of states and over 1.6 million students have been trained over the past three years. OSHA authorizes trainers who complete the required training to teach this course, and students who complete the course receive an OSHA 10 hour card as proof of their completion.

In the past, the OSHA 10 course has been available online, via video conference (webinar) and through live, instructor led classrooms. Courses can be found in all 50 states through various state, city, and private OSHA authorized instructors. Most courses have been delivered in one full ten hour day. All that has changed effective October 1, 2010.

OSHA Authorized instructors will no longer be permitted to deliver training in ten (10) hour increments. That means that you can no longer complete your OSHA 10 in one full day's training session.

OSHA having considered the issue of how people absorb training, no longer believes that students can retain safety training in ten hour increments.

Limiting training to more reasonable time increments will likely lead to more effective OSHA 10 training. The maximum number of hours in one day has been set at 7.5 hours. OSHA 10 Hour training must now be delivered over a minimum of two days and OSHA 30 Hour training is to be delivered over a minimum

of four (4) days. OSHA states that they will only consider exceptions to the new OSHA 10 Hour training rules in "extremely extenuating circumstances." Cost, time lost, trainer availability, etc. cannot be considered as factors.

OSHA 10 hour training has enjoyed a tremendous popularity in this country as workplaces have become safer, and adding these new restrictions may actually have a counter effect of fewer people being trained due to the time restrictions.

At first, it did not appear that the OSHA 10 online training would be affected, but since December 2010, many online training providers are now limiting the daily online time to 7.5 hours, similar to the classroom course changes. ■

Future Builders of America Struggles for Sponsors

*Written by: Debbie Emmons
FBA Coordinator/Consultant*

The *Future Builders of America* Annual Leadership Training Camp is scheduled for March 4-6, 2011 in Haines City. Currently, 64 'top'



students from across the state are planning on attending Leadership Training this spring along with 25 counselors, and 9 FBA Alumni. This annual retreat is run solely by Building Industry leaders that develop educational seminars, team building activities, leadership training, and networking opportunities for our Chapter members.

In the past we have had very generous donations from within our circle of volunteers, and have been able to produce an extraordinary Camp, but this year, we are in trouble. Without

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additional sponsors, the camp is in danger of losing a large percentage of the activities and training offered. FBA needs to raise \$15,000 within the next 45 days to avoid losing many valuable programs. We are reaching outside of our FHBA membership for support so that we can continue to provide this opportunity to our youth. The FBA is a nonprofit organization and sponsorships or donations are tax deductible.

(Videos of our Camp can be seen at www.futurebuildersofamerica.org)

There are many sponsorship opportunities available, from \$100 to \$2500. You will be rewarded by knowing you are a large part of the 'Future of the Building Industry'... and, you will receive recognition with the Florida Home Builders Association, the students and their parents, and in structures throughout Florida.

Please contact Debbie Emmons at fa.debbie@yahoo.com or (941) 457-3385 if you would like further information on the benefits of sponsoring the FBA. ■

Wanted: GOLD for Smart Grid

The smart grid community needs a little more GOLD. The GOLD is in terms of the Graduates of the Last Decade. The specified GOLD group is the upcoming technology efficient, risk-taking engineers and technicians as the driving force for the new smart grid movement.

Energy Efficiency Market Newsletter blogger Elisa Wood states that GOLDS benefit from two converging trends. The first is the sizeable technical task that utilities face in integrating smart grid technologies. The



Graduates of the Last Decade

second is the wave of retirements expected to hit the utility industry in the next five to seven years. There is an "Over my dead body" coupled with "It can wait until I retire in three years" attitude floating around from these two dominant utility powerhouses.

This new group will take the utility industry into the new age which is known for being risk adverse hindering and stunting it's growth with the incorporation of more efficient technologies and practices. Elisa Wood reports that Utilities companies have done little hiring in the last 15 years. Thus, the middle group – those in between upper management and new recruits – tends to be thin. So the way is clear for GOLDS to enter management early in their careers. ■

Contributed by: Elisa Wood

Treasury Grant 1603 has been passed

On December 16th, 2010 The House of Representatives passed a bill by a vote of 277 to 148 for an extension for the 1603 Treasury Grant program. The grant provides support for the development of large solar and renewable energy projects. This particular grant creates new jobs in our currently struggling economy. President Obama signed it on December 17th at 3:00 p.m.

SEIA spokesperson Monique Hanis said prior to extending the deadline, projects had to break ground by Dec. 31 2010 to be eligible. "It gives solar a little more flexibility in financing their utility-scale projects and it helps with the continued financing of solar projects," Hanis said. This grant will allow developers receive the funds on completion instead of having to wait for the tax credit This act creates a quicker investment return and helps clear the way for funding future developments.

Solar Energy Industries Association

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(TREASURY GRANT - Continued from page 5)

(SEIA) has worked hard to extend this grant program allowing these energy developers to gain from it. Rhone Resch, president and CEO of SEIA states that "An extension will help the solar industry remain one of the fastest growing industries in America and create thousands of new careers." The program has created thousands of job opportunities in the construction industry spanning from one end to the other.

An advantage to this program is shown by a study from EuPD Research indicating that a two-year extension of the Treasury Grant Program would create 67,000 jobs in 2015. The report also stated, "Cumulative U.S. investment (2010-2016) in solar electric technologies would increase by \$21 billion." The U. S. government would get a net savings of \$400,000 million through 2016 if the program is in fact extended showing how important it is.

Contributed by: Chris Meehan

Home Energy Scoring Program

The US Department of Energy (DOE) has announced a new home energy scoring program, the Home Energy Score pilot program, which will rate homeowners' energy efficiency in their homes'. The resulting report assigns an energy score between 1 (lowest) and 10 (highest) showing the comparison to other homes in their region. Additional cost-effective recommendations including utility bill savings,



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

payback periods, and greenhouse gas emission reductions are given for energy cost reduction and improved comfort levels of each persons'

home.

DOE's comprehensive set of guidelines *Workforce Guidelines for Home Energy Upgrades* was released for the residential energy efficiency industry. The workforce will develop a stronger foundation with expanding skills, plus building higher quality work practices. "The initiatives announced today are putting the Recovery Through Retrofit report's

"Together, these programs will grow the home retrofit industry and help middle class families save money and energy," states Vice President Biden.

recommendations into action - giving American families the tools they need to invest in home energy upgrades." said Vice President Biden. "Together, these programs will grow the home retrofit industry and help middle class families save money and energy."

Executive Director Mike Rogers from *Building Energy Assessment Professionals of Florida* reports that under this voluntary program, trained and certified contractors will use a standardized assessment tool developed by DOE and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory to quickly evaluate a home and generate useful, actionable information for homeowners or prospective homebuyers. The Home Energy Scoring Tool lets a contractor in an hour or less evaluate a home's heating/cooling systems, insulation levels and more. This lets the owners review their score regardless of the energy efficiency



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method levels.

Mike Rogers also reports that the Home Energy Score initially will be tested with local government, utility, and non-profit partners in ten pilot communities across the country, located in both urban and rural areas that cover a wide range of climates. During this test phase, the Department and its partners will gauge how homeowners respond to the program, and whether the information encourages them to get energy improvements done on their homes. After the pilot tests conclude in late spring 2011, DOE expects to launch the Home Energy Score nationally later next year, based on the findings from the initial programs. There are nine other states that are going to participate in this program.■

Contributed by: Mike Rogers

Every Company Needs a Corporate Energy Manager

Several companies fail to utilize cost saving opportunities through energy purchasing and efficiency. This is done by the lack of high-level positions for energy management that pay for themselves within 5 months. These roles can be advocated within the group or corporate level.

There is an abundance of opportunity to save money everywhere. Guest blogger Paul Baier from *Groom Energy* states that “In our consulting work we consistently see opportunities to reduce overall energy spending by 5 percent to 15 percent through projects with a two to three year payback period. This is serious money for companies with energy

budgets approaching \$50 million, and starts to really add up for firms in the \$500 million range.”

Projects can improve energy purchasing practices or increase energy efficiency. This can even be done with no capital investment as well. Examples for larger industry settings can be as simple as adjusting the temperature set points for a frozen and refrigerated warehouse to be cooler at night and warmer during the day or recharging electrical forklifts at a three hour later time. This will take advantage of reduced electricity rates and give you energy savings.

The question remains asking why others aren’t exploiting these solutions. A couple of reasons rest with focusing on the financial and productivity benefits seeing if it produces an immediate savings and not down the road. However, just like any good investment it takes time and energy to see the positive effects come into view. Ultimately having an energy manager with that mindset will help the company in the long run be more prosperous both financially and for production.■

Contributed by: Paul Baier

Davis Bacon Act Wage Requirements

Reported by: The Department of Veterans Affairs

If you are bidding any construction jobs that are funded by *the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act* (ARRA) then you need to carefully read this article.

The work under the Davis-Bacon Act (DBA) requires all mechanics and laborers employed or working directly upon the site to

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be paid prevailing “wage determination and benefit”.

A “wage determination” is the listing of wage rates and fringe benefit rates for each classification of laborers and mechanics which the Administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the U.S. Department of Labor has determined to be prevailing in a given area for a particular type of construction (e.g., building, heavy, highway, or residential).



The law requires that a copy of the wage determination shall be posted by the contractor at the site of work in a prominent place where it can be easily viewed by the workers.

Registered apprentices may be employed on the site but must be certified by the apprenticeship program they are registered with and the State Office of Apprenticeship. This is in compliance with Florida Laws, FAC 6A-23. The apprentice will be paid an appropriated percentage of the prevailing wage and benefit based on their registered Apprenticeship Standards.

If you accept ARRA funds, then you must work to ensure compliance with the act. This includes submitting certified payroll and using materials on the job that are produced in the United States.

The number of people who will be scrutinizing Davis-Bacon jobs will be abundant, the thousands of unemployed workers that are searching for jobs, the TV personality lawyers that will add these job to their ongoing commercials and the labor unions. The DOL Wage and Hour Division has hired additional investigators to enforce the Davis-Bacon Law. ■

Bureau of Labor Statistics U.S. DOL News Release National Statistics

*Reported by: Bureau of U.S. Labor Statistics
U.S. Department of Labor*

Extended Mass Layoffs - Third Quarter 2010

Employers initiated 1,297 mass layoff events in the third quarter of 2010 that resulted in the separation of 187,091 workers from their jobs for at least 31 days, according to preliminary figures released by the U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over the year, both events and separations decreased sharply from program high third quarter levels (with data available back to 1995). The national unemployment rate averaged 9.5 percent, not seasonally adjusted, in the third quarter, essentially unchanged from 9.6 percent a year earlier.

Industry Distribution of Extended Layoffs

Fourteen of 18 major industry sectors in the private nonfarm economy registered declines over the year in the number of extended mass layoff events. Eighteen of 21 manufacturing subsectors experienced over-the-year decreases in the number of layoff events. The largest numbers of separations in the third quarter of 2010 were associated with food and transportation equipment manufacturing.

Construction firms recorded 202 events and 19,005 separations, primarily in specialty trade contracting and in heavy and civil engineering construction. Construction layoffs comprised 16 percent of events and 10 percent of separations. Both layoff events and separations in this sector decreased over the year.

Reasons for Extended Layoffs

Layoffs due to business demand factors accounted for 36 percent of events and 37

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percent of related separations during the third quarter, down from 46 percent of events and 39 percent of separations in the same period a year earlier.

Movement of Work

In the third quarter, 47 extended mass layoffs involved movement of work and were associated with 6,840 separated workers. Movement of work layoffs accounted for 5 percent of the nonseasonal layoff events during the third quarter. Fifty-seven percent of the extended mass layoff events related to movement of work were from manufacturing industries. Employers cited organizational changes as an economic reason for layoff in 45 percent of the events involving movement of work. Among the regions, the largest proportions of workers affected by the movement of work were in the South and the West.

Recall Expectations

Forty-seven percent of employers reporting an extended mass layoff in the third quarter indicated they anticipated some type of recall, up from 31 percent a year earlier. Of those employers expecting to recall workers, 39 percent indicated that the offer would be extended to all displaced employees, and 68 percent of employers anticipated extending the offer to at least half of the workers. Sixty-six percent of employers expecting to recall laid-off employees intend to do so within 6 months.

Size of Extended Layoffs

The average size of a layoff was 144 during the quarter, the smallest average size in program history. Events were primarily concentrated at the lower end of the extended layoff-size spectrum, with an all-time program high 75 percent involving fewer than 150 workers, up from 68 percent a year ago.

Initial Claimant Characteristics

A total of 177,807 initial claimants for unemployment insurance were associated with extended mass layoffs in the third quarter of 2010. Of these claimants, 16 percent were black, 23 percent were Hispanic, 44 percent were women, and 21 percent were 55 years of age or older. Among persons in the civilian labor force for the same period, 12 percent were black, 15 percent were Hispanic, 47 percent were women, and 20 percent were 55 years of age or older.

Geographic Distribution

The West and Northeast recorded the highest numbers of separations due to extended mass layoff events in the third quarter. The highest numbers of separations were in the Pacific and Middle Atlantic. California recorded the largest number of worker separations, followed by New York, Florida, and Illinois. Over the year, 43 states reported decreased numbers of laid-off workers, led by California, Florida, and Pennsylvania.■

Generating Jobs: Dunnellon High School Power Generation Academy Trains Future Engineers, Workers

Dunnellon High's new Power Generation Academy shows high school students how to use industrial tools other types of machinery. The use of laptops and other "smart" tools will allow these high school participants to excel in a college setting when pursuing engineering degrees. *Ocala.com* writer Joe Callahan states that Dunnellon High sophomore Dillon Wiggins is one of 32 students

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who are enrolled in this academy. The unique program is one of just a few such programs in the nation at the high school level. The program's seed money - \$20,000 - came from a Progress Energy grant administered by the Public Education Foundation of Marion County. Principal Michelle Lewis said the idea for the unique power academy stemmed from the fact that many Dunnellon-area families have a connection to Progress Energy.

This new vocational program focuses on giving students entry level college and workforce skills. Joe Callahan reports that Principal Lewis learned that industry officials were concerned that many students were leaving high school



w i t h o u t knowledge on how to use basic tools. The r e s u l t i n g solutions in the new academy will feature four levels of power i n s t r u c t i o n , t a k e n a s electives. The freshman year focuses on core issues, like how to safely handle tools. Then the academy will cover mechanical and electrical engineering concepts. The final level, when most of the students enter their senior year, will be mostly hands-on training.

Academy students are getting similar kinds of training as new power company

employees. Upon completion the participants will be issued certificates that are nationally recognized by the **NCCER-National Center for Construction Education and Research**. At the



Bruce Ackerman / The Ocala Star-Banner

beginning of this development Principal Lewis expressed shock when seeing a nice blend of highly focused academic students wanting to take the class, as well as those planning on bypassing college.

Joe Callahan reports that Carole Savage, the executive director of the Public Education Foundation of Marion County, said Progress Energy has offered \$20,000 grants for several years. She looks for needs in the School District and applies for the funding. When Lewis told her about this program idea, she applied and received the funding. Back in the classroom, Dillon Wiggins talked about his first year in the power academy, comparing it with when he helped his grandfather remove engines from vehicles.

"We are learning the right way (to use the tools)," he said as educators sitting around him laughed at the look on his face. ■

Contributed by: Joe Callahan

Forecast for the Construction Economy in 2010

As Reported in: Florida Surety Bonds

Economist Ken Simonson from the AGC spoke at a meeting in Orlando about what's going to be happening in construction in 2010. Ken states that ultimately we need to look at where the federal government stimulus funds are being spent.

\$35 billion will be spent on general building projects. Of that \$35 billion, \$8 billion will be on housing, \$6 billion will be on "other Federal", \$6 billion will be on GSA, and \$7 billion on Department of Defense. \$30 billion is set aside for Energy and Technology. \$5 billion of that is for weatherization, \$6 billion is for energy grants, \$7 billion on wireless/broadband, and just \$11 billion on the electrical grid.

For every Billion dollars the government spends on nonresidential construction, Ken estimates that will create 28,500 jobs. 1/3rd of those jobs will be direct construction jobs. 1/6th of those jobs will be indirect jobs for supplying industries like pipe suppliers and bond agents. The balance will be induced jobs resulting from all those contractors spending money for furniture, clothing, and cars because they have jobs. The multiplier to the economy is 3.4 times.

Overall, public construction is up 3% from 8/08 to 8/09. Commercial construction is down 10% nationwide in the same period. Construction costs are leveling off in this marketplace. The Producer Price Index for construction was up 33% from 2003 to 2009., By comparison, the Consumer Price Index was only up 17% over that same period. Many contractors had nightmare stories of price increases threatening their business during those years. Total employment is down 4% in the past

year, but it is down 15% in construction. Nationwide, construction unemployment was 17% in September. Construction employment in Florida is down 13% in Florida, but it's down 27% in Arizona. This number really varies from state to state. ■

A Green Cure for the Blues

The Home Star bill was introduced to the White House in 2009 and was passed with a vote of 246-161. This Green cure, voted for by the President's Economic Recovery Advisory Board, gives home owners rebates for energy efficiency improvements and cuts energy consumption. *Energy Efficiency Markets Newsletter* guest blogger Stephen L. Cowell states that the bill has unique bi-partisan support and is backed by one of the largest coalitions to

h i t
 Washington in
 years. In just a

few months, the Home Star Coalition signed more than 1,300 members. The supporters came from labor unions, the Chamber of Commerce, the National Association of Manufacturers, contractors, retailers, utilities and regulators.

Cowell reports that the plan to weatherize America's homes has undergone much review and analysis by a coalition of more than 1,000 stakeholders, the Senate, the House and the Administration. Its pros and cons have been analyzed, dissected and debated on blogs, TV and in mainstream newspapers for months now. The disparity between blue- and white-collar workers who have been affected by the economy is striking - one in five workers in blue-collar industries across America is jobless.

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(GREEN CURE - Continued from page 11)

On the other hand, those making \$150,000 a year or more are barely impacted. (Three percent are unemployed as of this writing.) These are the findings of a study** authored by Professor Andrew Sum, Northeastern University's director of the Center for Labor Market Studies.

On a finishing note Cowell makes the

Home Star will put hundreds of thousands of people back to work and provide economic recovery to a large number of blue-collar workers hit hardest by this recession.

statement that the Home Star bill will benefit unemployed blue-collar laborers and experienced workers who have lost jobs in construction and manufacturing because their skills can be easily adapted. Beyond retrofitting, Home Star will have a ripple effect creating jobs in other areas such as retailing, trucking and manufacturing. In fact, US factories will crank out 92 percent of the products needed to support the program, from insulation to replacement windows.■

Contributed by: Stephen Cowell

Building Energy Assessment Professionals Member Bulletin

Duct Testing

We are relying on legislators and staff to reinstate the Florida Energy Star HVAC Rebate Program that was announced this past August by the Governor's Energy Office (GEO). The BEAP, GEO, Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) and Florida Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Contractors Association (FRACCA) work together to keep the Duct Testing components in the program and to ensure questions concerning professional implementation. Executive Director of *BEAP*

Mike Rogers represented the committee in Tallahassee. The Energy Office of Florida announced in August 2010 the new "Florida Energy Star Residential Rebate Program." The program will offer up to \$1,500 per household for home owners that installed energy efficient HVAC systems. In order to qualify you must have submitted the results of a Duct Test. In the beginning of the testing it was thought that Florida Energy Raters could do duct testing but investigators from the Department of Business and Professional Regulation advised them that only a licensed Florida Mechanical Contractor could perform the Duct Testing.

November 9, 2010 the HVAC Rebate Program was passed by the House and the Senate. House Bill 15A will provide funding to all eligible applicants, in order to receive a rebate you had to have your application and paper work turned in by November 30, 2010.

BERS overhaul: An End to Class 2 and 3?

Building Energy Rating System (BERS) representatives will meet several times beginning in October of 2010 to review the current regulations, rules and business functions. They will be deciding whether enhancements and/or changes are need to the program, as well as evaluating and developing consensus recommendations regarding the system.

APA's Carbon Challenge

The Carbon Challenge Florida Design Competition has challenged Florida designers to design a single family house with the lowest carbon footprint. There will be 15,000 cash prizes awarded to the winners. Winners will be determined by global warming potential. Entries had to be submitted in December 2010. The winners of the challenge will be announced and awarded at the International Builders' Show in Orlando on January 13, 2011.■

Flood Resistant Construction Standards Move into Florida State Code

*Written by: Joy Duperault
Florida State Floodplain Manager*

Those who work in the construction industry are well aware that many federal, state and local laws and codes apply to their work. When the Florida statewide Building Code was first implemented in 2002, it was decided at that time not to include the federal flood-resistant standards, which already resided in the local ordinances of communities that participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP.)

During the 2010 Florida Building Code revision, however, the International Code Council's flood-resistant construction standards are finally being incorporated, demonstrating Florida's commitment to strong mitigation measures at every opportunity. These "minimum regulation" flood-resistant standards are not new, except perhaps to the handful of communities that have not yet decided to participate in the NFIP. Much work has been done to integrate these standards into the Florida Code in a clear and meaningful manner.

Many Florida NFIP communities have adopted higher standards, and these important provisions have also been given consideration. The 2010 Florida Legislature approved legislation allowing NFIP communities to retain their higher standards beyond the three-year code revision cycle, again in favor of a commitment to mitigation against future losses due to floods. In the near future the State will present Florida communities with a template ordinance that will be a "companion" to the statewide building code, containing the non-construction portions of the NFIP program as well as options for new higher

standards if selected locally.

In the meantime the state floodplain management office is developing training for local building officials and floodplain managers in order to clarify code changes and local responsibilities. These training events will be delivered throughout the state beginning in the fall of 2011, and continue until need has been satisfied.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) offers much technical guidance for NFIP regulations, including several recently updated Technical Bulletins. For free download of these 11 documents, visit <http://www.fema.gov/plan/prevent/floodplain/techbul.shtm>. FEMA's new "Desk Reference for Substantial Improvement/ Substantial Damage" in the floodplain (publication P-758) is also available at <http://www.fema.gov/library/viewRecord.do?id=4160>.

In Florida there are 456 communities that participate in the NFIP, allowing their residents to purchase affordable flood insurance. Damage from flooding remains the highest vulnerability of all Florida disasters, and Florida residents and businesses annually purchase 38% of the nation's NFIP flood insurance policies. Flood-resistant construction and local codes provide excellent protection against future flood damage losses. For more information about flood insurance, visit www.FloodSmart.gov.

If you have questions about flood-resistant construction in your area, contact your floodplain manager by calling your local permit office. To reach the State Floodplain Management Office, email floods@em.myflorida.com. ■

Construction Spending Rose in November for Third Month

November marked the third straight month for increased spending in the construction industry for the U.S. This is a result of homebuilding and federal government projects such as schools, office buildings and water supply plants. There was a 0.4 percent increase that exceeded the median forecast surveyed by Bloomberg News and followed a 0.7 percent gain in October.

“Public spending will increase as the stimulus funds are put to use,” Michelle Meyer, a senior economist at Bank of America Merrill Lynch Global Research in New York, said before the report. “Residential will grow next year but only marginally, while commercial construction will continue to be a drag.”

Bloomberg Businessweek reporters Bob Willis and Timothy R. Homan report the following statistics that Construction spending decreased 6 percent in the 12 months ended in November. Private construction spending climbed 0.3 percent from the previous month. Homebuilding outlays increased 0.7 percent, while private non-residential projects dropped 0.1 percent. Federal spending rose 8.2 percent, to reach a record-high \$35.3 billion.

Contractors are waiting to build because the housing market is staying near recession levels. Housing permits fell in November to the third-lowest level on record, while new-home starts rose for the first time in three months, the Commerce Department reported Dec. 16. “Consumers are clearly waiting to see signs of an economic recovery and job growth before they make their decision to purchase a home,” Chief Executive Officer Ara Hovnanian said on a conference call.

Contributed by: Bob Willis & Tim Homan

(CTEF - Continued from page 3)

the NCCER (National Center for Construction & Education Review) to provide students with the same credentials as craft professionals, assuring the national portability of their skills. CTEF operates as a non-profit 501c(3) organization funded with tax-deductible contributions from community and business partnerships.

Paul’s previous career success as an independent engineering consultant owning and operating several companies was the catalyst for creating CTEF. Paul’s premier high school engineering career academy was designated as a “Center for Excellence” by Project Lead The Way in 2008. Other honors include the University of South Florida Honorary Engineering Alumnus Award to Paul Whish in recognition of his efforts to assist the Dolan Family in conjunction with ABC Television’s *Extreme Home Makeover* in St. Petersburg Florida in 2004. Paul and his team of high school engineering students constructed a robotic bedroom and contacted USF to offer an engineering scholarship for Mr. Dolan’s son who wanted to invent a way for his blind Dad to see. Paul received the PLTW Hunter Humanitarian Award from Florida’s governor for coordinating and building a playground in memory of Jessica Lunsford at Crystal River Elementary School in Citrus County. He was nominated as Teacher of the year for Pinellas County in 2005. *STEMflorida* awarded Paul Whish the 2010 STEM Business and Education Partnership Award, designating CTEF as an outstanding strategic Florida program producing the STEM proficient workforce needed by Florida employers.

Paul Whish plans to apply his success and energetic style through his newly hired Director of Education and Training, Kevin

(Continued on page 15)

(CTEF - Continued from page 14)

Gay, formerly from Progress Energy. Kevin has 18 years of experience and background in training and development in the craft/technical field with the military, OSHA, oil field, software development, nuclear utilities and for the last two and one half years as the Craft/Technical Workforce Program Manager for Progress Energy developing academies in targeted Florida high schools and colleges. Adding to the convenience for NCCER sponsorship Kevin is also a Master Training Instructor with the NCCER.

Paul is offering his leadership, vision and strong CTEF partnerships to high schools wishing to comply with C.A.P.E. Legislation Act that need assistance implementing the right academy for their school or seeking knowledge about the process of building a sustainable career academy. Through a well-developed process of working with key government, industry and community partnerships CTEF is assisting schools to create healthy, robust academies with connections to industry throughout the state and nationally, ensuring technical training, career path development and future employment opportunities for graduating high school students.

CTEF also offers NCCER Sponsorship, Instructor Training and guidance for businesses who wish to train and certify their employees with NCCER certifications, opening them up for Government and larger commercial contracts.

If you would like to take advantage of the services CTEF has to offer please visit our site at <http://www.careertechedfoundation.org> or contact Paul or Kevin: ■

Paul Whish: (407) 491-0903

Kevin Gay: (352) 601-7676

(SANTA FE COLLEGE - Continued from page 2)

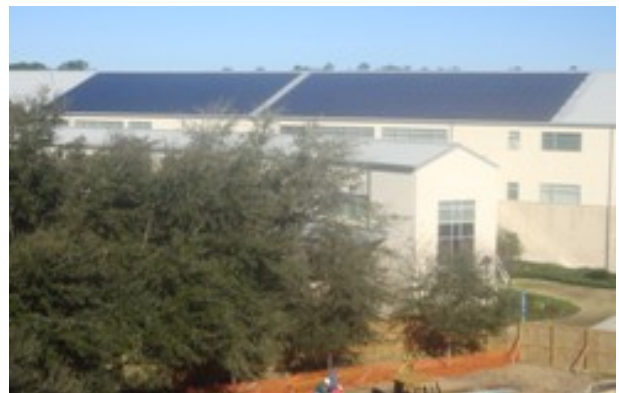
ultimate result of that workgroup's efforts have lead to the multiple solar energy projects now on the northwest campus.

The primary solar thermal project involves using solar energy to heat the domestic hot water in our gymnasium.



(Charles Perry Building Construction Institute)

O u r



(Library Photovoltaic System)

second solar thermal project and first solar photovoltaic project are contained in our newest LEED building on campus; the Charles R Perry Building Construction Institute. Our newest solar photovoltaic installation is on our northwest campus library. The power generated from this system can be viewed real time at:

(SOLAR JOBS CENSUS - Continued from page 2)

that investments made through Recovery Act—including the \$2.3 billion in tax credits to U.S. based clean energy manufacturing—are already generating

positive results,” said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. “The solar energy sector is an increasingly important source of good jobs for Americans. Fostering the growth of this emerging industry will help protect our environment, ensure the U.S. remains competitive in the global economy, and offer great opportunities for the nation’s working families.”

“This first-ever national census shows that solar jobs are on the rise and expected to grow 26 percent in the coming year,” said Andrea Luecke, acting executive director of The Solar Foundation. “By examining the data from thousands of companies along the entire supply chain, the study shows that the solar industry is having a substantial and positive impact on the U.S. economy.”

As of August 2010, the National Solar Jobs Census 2010 identified more than 16,700 solar employment sites and 93,000 solar jobs in all 50 states. It also found that solar employers expect to increase the number of solar workers by 26 percent, representing nearly 24,000 net new jobs by August 2011. This rate is significantly higher than the expected three percent net job loss in fossil fuel power generation and the economy-wide expectation of two percent growth over the same period.

The survey examined employment along the solar value chain, including installation, wholesale trade, manufacturing, utilities and all other fields and includes growth rates and job numbers for 31 separate occupations. The report included data from more than 2,400 solar company survey respondents.

The National Solar Jobs Census 2010 was conducted by The Solar Foundation and Green LMI Consulting with technical assistance

from Cornell University.

“This study contains high-quality research methodology,” said John Bunge, Associate Professor in the Department of Statistical Science at Cornell University, and an associate professor of social statistics at Cornell’s ILR School. “Using both primary and secondary data sources further strengthens this data and ensures even higher confidence in its results.” The National Solar Jobs Census 2010 will be made publicly available for the first time at The Solar Foundation’s Release Party at Solar Power International ‘10 in Los Angeles on October 13.

For details, go to:
www.thesolarfoundation.org/eventswebinars ■

(JOBS REBOUND - Continued from page 3)

of populations, cost of living and business costs, and the global orientation of regional economies are key factors in its forecasts.

The forecasting model reflects the industry makeup of regions and the growth outlook for those industries. For example, the industrial Midwest takes into account the problems in the auto industry, and the relative success of the technology industry is reflected in forecasts for California’s Bay Area and Boston.

Moody’s Economy.com’s model also takes into account policy decisions made by the Federal Reserve and the specifics of the fiscal stimulus package and the bank bailout legislation.

The Banner Center for Construction has a direct link to this page on the website that you can access at <http://www.buildflorida.org/USATodayJobsForecast>. These statistics change monthly. Check out our link and other resources on our website for more information about construction training opportunities in Florida (www.buildflorida.org). ■

(WEATHERIZATION - Continued from page 2)

Partners for the grant include the Florida Solar Energy Center (FSEC) at the University of Central Florida, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and five selected local Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP) provider agencies listed below. Training formats will include classroom, hands-on and interactive online modules.

The Florida Weatherization Training Center will be a distributed and coordinated network accessible throughout the state, rather than being a physical center. It will offer certifications in Green Remodeling and in Remodeling Health and Safety, both of which will include initial training in general WAP procedures and installation fundamentals. In addition to classroom trainings and online offerings, core competency exams will be delivered at a series of existing teaching facilities in distributed locations convenient to the 29 WAP provider agencies and their contractors. These facilities will include University of Florida/Cooperative Extension Service Wind Mitigation Demonstration Houses and the network of Florida Community Colleges.

The development and deployment of the Florida Weatherization Training Center programs will directly impact the number of qualified weatherization contractors (and skilled workers) available to meet the goals of Florida's WAP program, while stimulating the overall market for trained green remodelers. Furthermore, the self-funding business plan incorporated into the project will provide for continual operation and curriculum development beyond DOE project funding that can serve as a model for other states. A unique strength of the Florida Weatherization Training Center will be its ability to sample and analyze selected energy use data from homes serviced by trained contractors, which is a key feedback mechanism for improving training as well as the most direct measure of success.

Major Participants:

University of Florida/Program for Resource Efficient Communities (UF/PREC)

Employ Florida Banner Center for Construction at Santa Fe College (EFBCC)

Local Weatherization Provider Partners:

St. Johns Housing Partnership (St. Augustine)

Community Action Program Committee (Pensacola)

Indiantown Non Profit Housing (Indiantown)

Broward County Minority Builders Coalition (Ft. Lauderdale)

Manatee Community Action Agency, Inc. (Bradenton)

University of Central Florida/Florida Solar Energy Center/Building Research (FSEC/BR)

National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH)

Conceptual Arts, Inc. (CA)

The National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)■

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