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Morris campus receives MNREM-WIRED grant to deliver May 2010 biomass gasification course

Summary: The Morris campus received \$85,000 to provide a biomass gasification technology course for college students and working adults seeking training and employment in the new industry.

(March 10, 2010)-The Minnesota Renewable Energy Marketplace–Alliance for Talent Development (MNREM) initiative awarded the University of Minnesota, Morris an additional \$85,000 grant to deliver and expand curriculum in biomass gasification technology. An intensive three-week course and other opportunities will be offered in May 2010 on the Morris campus. Participants will include four-year students from Morris, two-year students from Minnesota West Community and Technical College (MN West) and Alexandria Technical College, undergraduate students from other institutions, and working adults seeking training and employment in biomass gasification.

Unique partnership

The Morris campus will deliver the biomass gasification technology curriculum through a unique partnership with University of Minnesota West Central Research and Outreach Center (WCROC), USDA North Central Soil Conservation Research Lab, MN West, Alexandria Technical College, Nova-Tech Engineering (Nova-Tech), Hammel, Green and Abrahamson, Inc.–Architects and Engineers (HGA) and Rural Minnesota Concentrated Employment Program (CEP). Morris's industry partners—HGA and Nova-Tech—have experience and expertise in biomass development to ensure that the course meets the needs of current and prospective employers.

WIRED Initiative

MNREM is one of thirty-nine regional projects throughout the country funded through the United States Department of Labor Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) Initiative. The primary goal of the initiative is to achieve long-term sustainable economic vitality and compete in a global economy through the attraction, creation, and retention of an educated and skilled workforce. MNREM proposals were solicited from businesses and organizations in the 36-county MNREM region to present innovative concepts for addressing the talent development needs to transform the region from primarily agriculture-dependent to a knowledge and innovation-based economy capitalizing on the region's strength in agriculture and renewable/alternative energy.

University of Minnesota, Morris Continuing Education received an initial 2009 MNREM-WIRED grant of \$174,258 to develop and deliver biomass gasification technology curriculum. The first course was held on campus in May 2009.

For more information about the Morris course ESci 1131-Renewable Energy with Biomass Gasification, request application materials or inquire about scholarships, contact [Chlene Anderson](#) at 320-589-6461, or visit the [course Web site](#).

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded under Workforce Innovation in Regional Economic Development (WIRED) as implemented by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with

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Through personal and academic discovery, the University of Minnesota, Morris provides opportunities for students to grow intellectually, engage in community, experience environmental stewardship and celebrate diversity. A renewable and sustainable educational experience, Morris prepares graduates for careers, for advanced degrees, for lifelong learning, for work world flexibility in the future, and for global citizenship. Learn more about Morris at morris.umn.edu or call 888-866-3382.