

## Solar Train-the-Trainer – Frequently Asked Question (updated 11/11/10)

**Question:** Who developed the solar photovoltaic (PV) curriculum/courses for Austin Community College District (ACC)?

**Answer:** With grant funding support from the Texas State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) and the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), the continuing education solar curriculum was primarily developed by Michael Kuhn, CEO Imagine Solar and NABCEP Professional/ISPQ Master Trainer. Michael both developed the curriculum for ACC and was the first instructor for the ACC solar photovoltaic (PV) courses, as well as Solar Train-the-Trainer. The current ACC Solar Train-the-Trainer instructor is Cathy Redson, Solar Consultant and NABCEP Professional.

**Question:** If I'm having "technical" problems entering THE NETWORK learning portal (or utilizing the AdobeConnect software platform used by THE NETWORK), who do I contact?

**Answer:** Marcos Molina, Technical Support, THE NETWORK, [mmolina@tccta.org](mailto:mmolina@tccta.org), 512-981-7914

**Question:** Who is the primary contact person for ACC Solar Train-the-Trainer?

**Answer:** Ed Ardizoni, ACC Continuing Education Coordinator, is the primary contact for all renewable energy and sustainability continuing education course offerings. He may be reached at: [eardizon@austincc.edu](mailto:eardizon@austincc.edu) (please allow one-week for a return response). Please label your e-mail (Subject) with: CE SOLAR TRAIN-THE-TRAINER PROGRAM INQUIRY

**Question:** When do you hold the live classroom & lab experience portion of the Solar Train-the-Trainer?

**Answer:** Ed Ardizoni will schedule the four-day intensive classroom and laboratory session whenever there is sufficient interest/demand. It is anticipated that at least one session will be held annually during the Summer months (preferably during college inter-session). Whenever possible, the Texas Renewable Energy Education Consortium (TREETC) solar demonstration trailer will be included in the live training (<http://treec.org/photos.php>). Please contact Ed at any time to indicate your interest in attending the live classroom & lab experience.

**Question:** What sort of financial tuition-assistance is available to faculty wanting to attend the training?

**Answer:** ACC was funded by SECO for one year (three cohorts of faculty) of the Solar Train-the-Trainer. That funding period ended on 8/31/10. The ongoing Solar Train-the-Trainer program is now supported entirely by tuition/fees paid by faculty enrolling in the program. As ACC continuing education students, some faculty may qualify for financial assistance through the Veterans Administration, or through their local workforce board (WIA local funds). All faculty are encouraged to talk with their supervisors regarding possible financial assistance through their college's professional development benefits program. Students may also inquire about ACC's payment plan that allows for spreading the tuition/fees over several payments.

**Question:** What type of prior training/experience is recommend in preparation for Solar Train-the-Trainer?

**Answer:** Any Texas faculty from Texas community or technical colleges who are currently teaching coursework in electronics, electrical systems, electrician apprenticeship, and/or HVAC should be sufficiently prepared to master the material in the program. However, the Solar Train-the-Trainer is a program focused on instructional delivery best-practices. It is not an introductory course in solar electric systems.

**Question:** Where do I get more information on Traveling to Austin?

**Answer:** See the "Travel Information" section of the Solar Train-the-Trainer website at [www.austincc.edu/ce/bii/solar](http://www.austincc.edu/ce/bii/solar) for our recommendations on hotels close to ACC's Highland Business Center (<http://www.austincc.edu/locations/hbc.php>) where the initial portion of the live training is held.