



Alexis Patterson
Media Relations Coordinator
Public Information & College Marketing
Desk 512.223.7596
Cell 512.762.2034
apatter1@austincc.edu

For immediate release - (Date)

ACC Awarded Grant to Train Women for Green Jobs

AUSTIN, TX (DATE) - The U.S. Department of Labor Women's Bureau has awarded the Austin Community College District (ACC) a \$59,800 grant to recruit women into renewable energy training programs. Right now women make up about 10 percent of ACC's renewable energy program students; with the assistance of the grant, ACC will undertake a strong recruitment campaign in hopes of boosting that figure to 20 percent over the next year.

"ACC is already a leader in renewable energy related courses, and this puts us even further ahead of the curve," says Kirk White, interim executive dean for Continuing Education. "The grant will enable us to do more to reverse the under-representation of women in an increasingly important field."

The effort will target new high school graduates, current ACC students, women using local workforce board and non-profit agency services, and members of green industry professional groups. The college will partner with a number of community groups to spread the word about ACC's programs, which include training in solar technology, wind power, green building, and weatherization.

As part of the recruitment effort, ACC plans to develop a "Women in Green Jobs" website, place ads, use social networking tools, and explore "women only" classes. The award will also allow ACC to form a Speakers Bureau featuring women in renewable energy related careers.

###

About the Austin Community College District (austincc.edu):

ACC, Central Texas' community college, is the primary gateway to higher education and career training for residents in eight counties. The college provides access to affordable, quality education. ACC enrolls more than 35,700 credit students, offering university transfer courses, two-year associate degrees, certificates, Early College Start, access programs that get students "college-ready," and continuing education. At ACC you can "Start here. Get there."