



Rappahannock Community College Glenns, Virginia Green Jobs Training

SCHOOL

Rappahannock Community College, public, 2-year, Glenns, Virginia.

GOALS AND OUTCOMES

Goals

This project was the number one request/identified need from a GREEN Summit Needs Assessment that was held on May 21, 2010 (sponsored by the RCC Workforce and Community Development Center with assistance through a Virginia Community College System grant). Awareness of GREEN products, initiatives, and technologies in our service area was cited at this Summit as a critical need of our area businesses, homeowners, and citizens. RCC Workforce Community Development Center acknowledges this need to make its constituents better educated and trained regarding GREEN initiatives and desires to meet it. This project supports the goals of The Greenforce Initiative by reaching out to the service area in an open forum environment to:

1. Provide information about green career pathways to our service area public;
2. Provide access to GREEN Technology initiatives to lower skilled adults through a non-threatening, open opportunity;
3. Provide awareness of current GREEN efforts underway in our service area and initiatives in other parts of the state and nation.

Accomplishments

At the end of April, Rappahannock Community College in Virginia hosted a green vendor fair, in partnership with the Gloucester County Chamber of Commerce. More than 15 green vendors attended highlighting their environmentally friendly products and services available to the community of Gloucester. Employers (vendors) present included Dominion Power, Phillips Energy, Green Planters, Gloucester Toyota, Lamb Exterminating, Rappahannock Community College and more.

The Green Vendor Fair not only helped the community learn what products and services are available (including educational services available through Rappahannock Community College), but for the companies (potential employers) to highlight what green skills are in demand and how the educational providers (i.e., Rappahannock Community College) can help develop training programs to ensure they are meeting this demand.

Campus Climate Action: Your School's Carbon Footprint

Rappahanock Community College's table featured their green workforce development course offerings including "Harnessing the Sun – Solar Systems: Installation and maintenance", "Harnessing the Wind – Wind Power Systems: Installation and maintenance", and a course specifically geared for kids, "Elementary Lego® Engineering 2 'Going Green'" for students (ages 11-12) to creatively build and modify machines applying basic engineering principles and green technology.

ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT

Leaders and Supporters

Project Partners:

1. Gloucester Chamber of Commerce – serve on planning committee, assisting with site set-up.
2. GCI Consulting Inc (Dan Guinn) – GREEN Vendor, assisted with Summit, will assist with contacting area/state GREEN Vendors
3. Rappahannock Home Builders Association (Margaret Hudnall) – will assist with advertising and notification of area contractors.
4. Earthcraft Virginia, Inc. (Chuk Bowles) – GREEN Vendor; assisted with Summit, with assist with contacting area/state GREEN Vendors.

Funding and Resources

This project received a Greenforce Initiative grant. The Greenforce Initiative, a partnership of Jobs for the Future and National Wildlife Federation, strengthens the capacity of community colleges to green the skills of the modern workforce.



Education and Community Outreach

- This project utilized the RCC “Rappenings” section of its website to strengthen awareness of this Fair.
- This project contacted the service area radio stations who provide FREE advertising for community service projects (included sessions during which key project personnel will be interviewed regarding the Fair).
- This project utilized the six area newspapers to advertise and report on the results of the Fair.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Contacts

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MORE ABOUT YOUR SCHOOL

Campus Sustainability History

Current initiatives at RCC include the following:

1. The establishment of the RCC Environmental Sustainability Committee.
2. A 15-year contract with TAC Energy Solutions to survey all college buildings and optimize energy use.
3. The building of a storm water retention center to decrease erosion, prevent flooding and keep pollutants out of the water supply, and thereby contribute to public health, safety and welfare. The retention center is being made possible by a grant from the Department of Conservation and Recreation.
4. Partnerships with area and state businesses promoting GREEN Technologies which has led to the offering of wind and solar courses, neighborhood initiative courses, landscaping and stormwater courses, and as series of Low Impact Development workshops through the RCC Workforce and Development Center.

Image Credit: National Wildlife Federation

