Hocking College Energy Institute Prioritizes Clean Energy Inside and Out (Nelsonville, OH)

Hocking College has been widely recognized for a hands-on instructional approach in its numerous degree and certificate programs. By integrating this approach with knowledge of advanced energy technologies, Hocking College is leading the way in developing advanced energy technical training programs. Hocking College currently offers associate degree programs in advanced energy and fuel cell technology and in automotive hybrids. In addition, Hocking College works with businesses to develop customized training programs related to advanced energy technologies.

Hocking College’s commitment to advanced energy training is showcased in its Energy Institute. The institute began green practices training in 2003 and officially opened its new facility in 2009 with a commitment to clean energy. The site contains many energy-efficient and environmentally-friendly design elements including a green roof, energy-efficient lighting and solar thermal panels. The building itself is a hands-on learning lab facility providing for innovative, technology-based learning and including a classroom equipped with 3-D computer simulations and a working lab designed for study of vehicular transportation technologies. The institute also provides facilities for studies of HVAC, solar, wind, and geothermal power. The U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC) issued the site a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) platinum certification, the highest certification USGBC awards. The LEED program recognizes best-practices in construction and serves as a framework for institutions worldwide.

The Hocking College Energy Institute also serves as a business incubator for new advanced energy businesses and is located in Hocking County across from the Logan-Hocking Industrial Park. The Logan-Hocking Industrial Park is designed to support advanced energy and high-tech businesses. This site provides infrastructure to support taking the knowledge of new advanced energy technologies to market through the incubator and business park facilities. It is also an ideal location for the interaction between Hocking College students and advanced energy businesses.
Through the Hocking College Energy Institute, Hocking College plays a critical role in training students to be employees of advanced energy companies and thus help support the economic development of the region.

Photo credit: Hocking County Community Improvement Corporation

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