



RE: Letter of Affirmation for KCC's Innovative Solar for Schools Program

DATE: January 26, 2015

To Whom It May Concern,

I would like to affirm that Kankakee Community College's Solar for Schools Program is innovative. The Illinois Green Economy Network (IGEN) is a unique state-wide network of all 39 Illinois community college districts, and, from my perspective as Executive Director, I can say that KCC is only one of four Illinois community colleges selected to participate in this pilot program that offers teacher professional development, curriculum resources, technical assistance, and instructional equipment to middle school and high school teachers across the state of Illinois to help them incorporate solar energy topics into their classroom. The Illinois Solar for Schools program team is comprised of personnel from the Center for Renewable Energy at Illinois State University, in partnership with staff and support from IGEN.

In the Solar for Schools Program, participating middle and high school teachers will receive professional development workshops, a classroom set of solar energy laboratory kits for hands-on experimentation, curricula and lesson plans, and technical assistance if they choose to pursue installation of a 1 kW solar photovoltaic system on the school grounds.

The program is showing great success by 1) engaging school teachers and students in energy education, specifically targeting solar energy, engaging local middle and high schools within community college districts, and sharing teaching resources highlighting solar energy as an alternative energy source and an economic future for America; 2) building relationships with local middle and high schools and their population of potential community college students; and 3) equipping local middle and high school teachers and students with knowledge of solar energy systems in order to provide the growing U.S. solar industry with interested and equipped solar energy professionals.

This is one of the many ways that KCC is helping IGEN serve the green market transformation and interest a new group of district students in the STEM curriculum.

Sincerely,

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