

## **Letters to the Editor: wind energy**

**Wednesday February 11, 2009, 10:00 PM**

Print publication date: Thursday, Feb. 12, 2009:

### **Colleges' partnership**

Monday's story "Wind power jobs are abundant, but training is scarce, " illustrates the current budget dilemma at both the state and federal government levels, but it doesn't mention the work that the state's community colleges are doing independent of new resources to meet the needs for trained wind energy technicians.

Through a new **partnership between Clackamas (CCC), Columbia Gorge (CGCC) and Linn Benton (LBCC) community colleges**, students can begin the Renewable Energy Technology Program in their local region and finish at CGCC. Students take at least the first year of the two-year degree requirement at CCC or LBCC, utilizing courses already offered, before transferring to CGCC to finish the program.

The partnership is expected to expand to community colleges across the state in the future. The program prepares students for work in the region's growing wind energy industry, which needs hundreds of new technicians over the next few years. Workers earn \$22- to \$33-per-hour, depending on their experience.

This relationship is one of countless creative partnerships the state's community colleges have developed to prepare workers for the state's business and industry. In this unprecedented budget year, it's vital to fund our community colleges at the highest possible level. Further cuts to our budgets will hinder our ability to respond proactively to changes in the marketplace.

JOANNE TRUESDELL  
President, Clackamas Community College  
Oregon City