



# Noble provides \$50,000 for NCCC program

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The Telegram

Noble Environmental Power will provide \$50,000 to North Country Community College (NCCC) to design a two-year degree and training program in Alternative Energy, the college announced Wednesday.

Franklin County Industrial Development Agency (IDA) Executive Director Brad Jackson said the \$50,000 allocation resulted from Payment In Lieu Taxes (PILOT) negotiations between Noble and Franklin County legislators last year.

When the agreement was made, it was suggested that a portion of the funds be devoted to supporting a degree program in renewable energy and a training program devoted to wind power technology at NCCC.

According to a news release issued by the college Wednesday, the main focus of the degree and training program will at first be wind power, addressing the growing demand in Franklin County's job market.

"With an estimated 500 wind turbines to be on line over the next few years, properly trained technicians in this highly specialized field will be needed to meet the growing demand and to ensure continued economic development of this fast-growing regional industry," according to the release.

Low-end hydro power and solar energy will be the focus of a future expansion in the program.

"Public-private and industry-academic partnerships such as this are essential to position any region into the innovation economy," said Jackson in a prepared statement. "The agency's comprehensive strategy speaks to several industry opportunities throughout the county in alternative energy, wood products and bio-technology."

Through this new program, the IDA and NCCC have partnered to position the region as an industry leader in the area of alternative energy; in reaching that goal, both have committed extensive resources to provide long and short-term economic benefits to the county.

"We are excited to be working with Noble Power, a national leader in alternative energy," said NCCC President Dr. Gail Rogers Rice. "NCCC has an exceptional reputation in the development of degree and training programs that offer area residents professional education in fields that are appropriate to the area job market."

"I hope the county leadership will join us in financing these essential economic development initiatives. The lesson learned from the St. Lawrence Natural Gas line project is that a relatively little amount of local capital can leverage a substantial amount of private and (state and federal) public funding. It is these types of investments that will position Franklin County in the long run for sustained job creation," Jackson said.

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